# STARS STRIPES.

No. 1 Federer makes Agassi look 'ordinary'



Second mental evaluation added after combat

Page 6

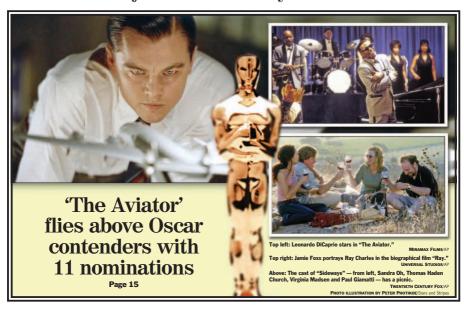
Chesney's relaxed life on display in new CD

Page 26

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2005

# **Accident in Iraq kills** five 1st ID soldiers

Two others injured after Bradley rolls into canal Page 3



Remember to thank your Command for today's copy of Stars and Stripes.



Your Stars and Stripes is now printed and delivered locally from Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq, and Qatar giving you up to date daily news, sports and entertainment.

Without the assistance of local commands. your friends and fellow soldiers would be isolated without news from home

Contact Stars and Stripes circulation with questions about delivery at 49-6155-601-455 DSN: 349-8455

To contact a reporter in the field, email Iraq@mail.estripes.osd.mil



### ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

#### States

O.J. Simpson assets: A memorabilia collector has refused to hand over O.J. Simpson's press credentials from the 1984 Olympics, ignoring a judge's order to satisfy a \$33.5 million award in a lawsuit that found Simpson liable for the deaths of his ex-wife and her friend

The order was issued in November to Alfred Beardsley after a closed-door court hearing to determine whether Simpson was hiding assets from the family of Ron Goldman, who was slain with Nicole Brown Simpson in 1994. Beardsley said attorneys for the Goldman family had given him until Monday to turn over the credentials, which he now believes were stolen from Simpson, along with other items the former football star kept in storage after he moved to Florida.

Robert Blake trial: A former assistant testifying in Robert Blake's murder trial told jurors she unwittingly helped the actor kidnap his daughter and feared immediately afterward that he had "done away" with the ba-

Despite those fears, Cody Blackwell said she never went to police. Instead, she sold her story to a tabloid publication for \$8,000 after learning of Bonny Lee Bakley's slaying

"I was scared," Blackwell testified Monday "I thought, 'Oh my God, I've been involved in a kidnapping of which I wasn't aware.' Bakley reported the baby's abduction to po-



death in May 2001. The 71-year-old star of the "Baretta" TV series is charged with kill-

ing Bakley, whom he married after discovering he had fathered her child. The prosecution alleges he wanted to keep the baby, Rosie, from Bakley, who had a criminal record and was on probation.

Fresno murders: Attorneys say they could spend as much as a month screening potential jurors in a trial of a man charged with the shooting deaths of nine of his children

About 2,200 potential jurors have been summoned to appear in Fresno County Superior Court in California for the start of jury selection in the trial of Marcus Wesson, the only one to emerge alive March 12, 2004, from a house where police discovered nine bodies in a bloody tangle and 10 white coffins stacked against the living room

Each victim had been shot once in the eye - the youngest a 1-year-old toddler, the oldest a 25-year-old woman whose child was

among the dead. Wesson faces nine murder charges, and more than a dozen counts of sexual abuse.

Videotaping arrest: A Pakistani man taken into custody after a police officer saw him videotaping downtown skyscrapers was sentenced to six months in prison on several charges — none related to terrorist

Kamran Akhtar, 36, was sentenced Monday on five immigration charges, including failure to follow a court order to leave the United States, possessing false identification cards and making false statements to investigators. After he was arrested in July, investigators found a videotape in his camera showing the 60-story Bank of America tower and the skyscraper that houses the



Grocery strikes: Grocery workers Laurie Piazza, left, and Elise Blazek speak about a new contract that United Food and Commercial Workers Local 428 Bay Area Coalition and three major grocers - Safeway, Albertsons and Kroger - tentatively agreed to Monday. The supermarkets say they must lower their labor costs to fend off tougher competition from discount merchants, such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Target Inc., that have been expanding their grocery selection. Labor leaders maintained that the grocers are exaggerating the Wal-Mart threat to squeeze out more profits at the expense of store workers.

Charlotte office of the FBI. Other tapes showed buildings and landmarks elsewhere in the United States, authorities said.

#### World

DMZ accusations: North Korea on Tuesday accused South Korea of illegally deploying "an artillery piece" inside the Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreas

North Korea periodically makes such accusations, and South Korean officials dismiss the allegations as propaganda

Under a cease-fire accord, only rifles and other small arms are allowed inside the DMZ, which was created after the 1950-53 Korean War as a buffer between the two states

Hamas cease-fire offer: The top Hamas leader said his militant group is prepared to suspend attacks if Israel stops targeting militants and agrees to release thousands of Palestinian prisoners, according to an interview published Tuesday.

The apparent softening of Hamas' position raised hopes that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas would soon reach a formal cease-fire with militant groups that would pave the way for a new round of peace talks with Israel.

Kuwait terrorism: Kuwaiti police have referred six suspected militants to prosecutors, believing they should be charged with either planning terrorist attacks or failing to report their knowledge of such plans, an Interior Ministry official said Tuesday

The suspects are among 25 men detained after shootouts with Kuwaiti police on Jan. 10 and 15. Two police officers and two terror suspects were killed in the clashes. Police seized large amounts of explosives and weapons after the shootouts.

Serb war criminals: The European Union's enlargement chief warned Belgrade leaders Tuesday that Serbia-Montenegro's chances for EU membership hinged on its handing over Serb war crimes suspects to the U.N. court at The Hague, Netherlands

"It is up to you to meet the critical condition, cooperation with The Hague tribunal. Olli Rehn said after talks with Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic

ami aftermath: Fire raged in this tsunami-battered city Tuesday, when gas cylinders strewn across a debris-strewn area began exploding

No injuries were reported as the blaze approached a power generator, raising fears that gas and oil inside might explode

Firefighters said they were running out of water. In one area, debris blocked three fire trucks from getting closer than 200 yards to the flames and firefighters dragged dry wood away from the blaze to prevent it from spreading

#### Business

CEO accounting fraud: Prosecutors claim former HealthSouth CEO Richard Scrushy and other ton executives schemed to inflate company profits by more than \$2.6 billion to make it appear the rehabilitation giant was meeting Wall Street forecasts.

Although Scrushy's defense in the corporate fraud trial says he is not contesting the existence of such a scheme, "he was unaware of it and was not a knowing participant."

The government is seeking \$278 million in personal assets, including waterfront homes, luxury cars and a yacht.

Scrushy, 52, has pleaded not guilty to a 58-count indictment that includes charges of fraud, conspiracy, obstruction of justice, perjury, money laundering and false corporate reporting in the first test of the 2002 Sarhanes-Ovley Act

#### War on terrorism

Guantanamo releases: Four Britons were released from the U.S. military camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and put on a flight that will arrive in Britain on Tuesday, police

Moazzam Begg, Feroz Abbasi, Martin Mubanga and Richard Belmar were among some 550 prisoners from 42 countries swept up in the U.S.-led war on terrorism and detained without charge for up to three years. Guantanamo holds detainees that U.S. authorities said were suspected of having links to the al-Oaida terrorist network or Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

# **5 U.S.** soldiers killed in Bradley accident

TIKRIT, Iraq - A Bradley fighting vehicle rolled into a canal during a combat patrol north of Baghdad, killing five U.S. soldiers and wounding two others, the military said Tuesday

The soldiers from the Army's 1st Infantry Division were pronounced dead on arrival at a military medical clinic.

Capt. Bill Coppernoll, 1st ID spokesman in Iraq, confirmed the soldiers were from a Germany-based

Maj. Neal O'Brien, another 1st ID spokesman, said the soldiers were with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team

Officials declined to identify them any further citing next-of-kin notification rules.

"We prefer we keep these things at division level, and let DOD make the specific announcement," O'Brien said. "The families prefer that."

One of the two injured soldiers was in serious condition, the other was stable, a military statement said

The M2 Bradley rolled into a canal during the patrol near the town of Khan Bani Saad on Monday night

The military was investigating the cause of the accident

Stars and Stripes reporter Rick Emert contributed to this



A U.S. soldier carries a painting as he walks to a helicopter in the International Zone of Baghdad on Tuesday. According to British ambassador to Iraq, Edward Chaplin, the Iraqi people are determined to turn out and vote in the national elections scheduled for Jan. 30. despite a intimidation by

### U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,372 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,077 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civil-

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush de clared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,234 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 968 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

- Army Sgt. Kyle W. Childress, 29, Terre Haute, Ind.; died Friday in Balad, Iraq, of wounds received when his unit was attacked; assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany
- Army Capt. Joe F. Lusk II, 25, Reedley, Calif.; died Friday in Camp Buehring, Kuwait, of noncombat injuries; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, Fort Bragg,
- Army 1st Lt. Nainoa K. Hoe. 27, Kailua. Hawaii; killed Saturday by small arms fire in Mosul, Iraq; assigned to the Army's 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

# Pre-vote attacks kill 9 Iraqis

BY SAMEER N. YACOUB The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - A spate of slayings and fierce clashes between insurgents and Iraqi police left at least nine Iraqis dead in Baghdad on Tuesday, including a senior Iraqi judge, highlighting the grave security risks in the run-up

to this weekend's elections. Amid the violence, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said the time was not right to talk of a U.S. troop withdrawal and that Iraq must first build up its security forces to confront the insurgents

"Others spoke about the immediate withdrawal or setting a timetable for the withdrawal of multinational forces," Al-lawi told reporters on Tuesday, "I will not deal with the security matter under political pretexts and exaggerations that do not serve Iraq and its people."

"I will not set final dates" for the withdrawal of international forces "because setting final dates will be futile and dangerous," Allawi said.

Fighting erupted Tuesday in Bagh-dad's eastern Rashad neighborhood as Iragi police fired on insurgents who were handing out leaflets warning people not to vote in Sunday's national elec-

About the same time and in the same neighborhood, insurgents opened fire on police who were checking out a report of a possible car bomb. Another bomb blew off the gate of a

secondary school in the neighborhood and gunmen opened fire on Iraqi and U.S. forces responding to the blast. Altogether, three policemen were killed and nine were wounded in the

various clashes, according to an official at Kindi Hospital. Two insurgents died and a shopkeep er was also killed in the crossfire. Earlier, officials reported 11 policemen were killed and offered no explanation

for the revised death toll. Elsewhere, gunmen killed two Iraqi army soldiers on patrol west of Baghdad, witnesses said.

Video shows U.S. hostage appealing to Arab leaders

BAGHDAD - A videotape monitored Tuesday shows an American abducted last November by gunmen in Baghdad pleading for his life and appealing to Arab rulers, including Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, to intercede to spare his life.

In the video, hostage Roy Hallums spoke slowly, rubbing his hands as he sat with a rifle pointed at his head He said he had been arrested by a "resistance group" because "I have worked with American forces."

Hallums, 56, was seized Nov. 1 along with Filipino Robert Tarongov during an armed assault on their compound in Baghdad's Mansour district. The two were working for a Saudi company that does catering for the Iraqi army. Both are missing. The video showed nothing of the Filipino.

"I am please asking for help because my life is in danger because



worked for American forces," Hal-lums said. "I'm not asking for any help from President Bush because I know of his selfishness unconcern for those who've been pushed into

this hellhole? Hallums said

he was asking for help from "Arab rulers especially President Moammar Gadhafi because he's known for helping those who are suffering

"I also ask that Arab leaders help me in this situation so I can be re-leased as quickly as possible from this definite end," he added, "I would remember this favor for the rest of my life should my life remain and I ask my family to help because my health is in a very bad situation."

worked for a district council in western Baghdad as he was on his way to work, police said.

In a third ambush, gunmen firing from a speeding car wounded three staffers from the Communications Ministry as they were going to work, police Lt. Iyman Abdul-Hamid said. The three workers, one of them a woman with seri-ous injuries, were rushed to a hospital.

In Iraq's north, gunmen kidnapped a senior official in the Iraqi Communist Party, Mohammed Nouri Agrawi, in the city of Mosul, a party official said.

Attackers blasted a school to be used as a polling station with machine gun fire in the central city of Diwaniyah, but no one was injured, a Polish mili-tary spokesman said Tuesday.

Officials have warned of a surge in violence around Sunday's national elections, which insurgents have vowed to disrupt The slain judge was identified as

Qais Hashim Shameri, secretary-general of the judges council in the Justice Ministry. Assailants sprayed his car with bullets in an attack that also killed the judge's driver and wounded his bodyguard. The Ansar al-Sunnah Army, one of

Irag's most active insurgent groups. claimed responsibility for the slaying, and in a Web posting called the judge "one of the heads of infidelity and apostasy of the new Iraqi government.

Assailants also shot dead a man who

# Gunbattle erupts during afternoon patrol in Ramadi

# While passing out election info, U.S., Iraqi forces come under fire

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Strings

RAMADI, Iraq — A joint patrol of American and Iraqi troops skirmished Monday with insurgents in downtown Ramadi, underscoring efforts to provide election security in the capital of Anbar province.

Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment — conducting a cordon-and-search operation with a platoon of Iraqi Special Police commandos — traded fire with insurgents

For the better part of an hour, gunshots and loud explosions echoed through the streets as both sides ducked into alleyways and courtyards amid the exchange. Orange-tinged sikes from a brief sandstorm and competing calls to prayer from local mosques added to the eerie scene. Neither U.S. nor Iraqi units reported any casualties.

Similar clashes, which U.S. soldiers say waned in the weeks after the November assault on Fallujah, have increased in Ramadi as the Jan. 30 national election approaches. Just days before Iraqi voters are to select an assembly to write a new constitution, residents in Ramadi say they are still worried about insurgent attacks.

When the patrol arrived just before noon, it was immediately apparent that Ramadi is unlike other towns in the area. As soldiers began their mission, everyone on the streets went into their homes. Shopkeepers closed up their businesses and none of the crowds of children that usually follow U.S. soldiers in other towns came out.

"That's pretty normal for this part of town," said 1st Lt. Larry Chappell, an Arabic speaker who directed the Iraqi platoon.

urrected the fraqi platoon.
"There are signs on the walls saying if we go to vote, we will all be killed," one woman told a group of U.S. psychological operations soldiers who accompanied the patrol.

"If you all go to vote, there is nothing they can do to you," one of the soldiers replied. "They are trying to scare you. Coalition and Iraqi forces will be protecting the polls."

In another courtyard, 1st Lt. Baudelio Arias, a 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery member attached to Company D as a civil affairs officer, handed out election information and pieces of candy to children.

As the troops swept through several blocks of a residential area in Ramadi, the Iraqi soldiers took the lead in entering the houses and talking with the residents. Most of the local men were not at home; many families said the men were at work or on the haji, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

The Iraqi soldiers talked with residents who were home, handing out election information fli-

U.S. officials in the short term



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Larry Chappell, left, and Pfc. Sean Mullins, both of Company D, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, peer out from a gated courtyard during a cordon-and-search operation Monday in Ramadi. Irag.

are counting on Iraqi forces to provide security at polling places. In the long run, officials hope, a reconstituted Iraqi security force will allow the 150,000 U.S. soldiary in Iraq to return home.

diers in Iraq to return home.

During Monday's patrol, the solders faced many of the same problems they have encountered before. Few of the local residents — who almost unanimously expressed a strong desire to vote — offered information on insurgents in the area.

"This is a safe neighborhood," one older resident, who said he has lived in the same house since 1960, told the soldiers in one of the first houses they visited.

Unknowingly foreshadowing the firefight ahead, a U.S. soldier replied to the man in disbelief. "There has not been a day

when we come to this street and don't take contact from insurgents," he told the man. "So please explain to me how you consider this a safe neighborhood, or at least, how you can think it's free of insurgents?"

giordonoj@pstripes.osd.mil



First Lt. Baudelio Arias, 30, from Santa Monica, Calif., hands out cand to Iraqi children.



Above: Mullins, a radio operator with Company D, relays messages during a gunfight with insurgents Right: A soldier from Company D takes aim from behind a pile of rubble.





An Iraqi Special Police commando, left, and Chappell keep security on a Ramadi street corner Monday.

# Army's troop level in Iraq to stay through '06

### Top operations officer expects little change in numbers during the next two years

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Army expects to keep its troop strength in Iraq at the current level of about 120,000 for at least two more years, according to the Army's top operations officer.

While allowing for the possibility that the levels could decrease or increase depending on security conditions and other factors, Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace Jr. told reporters Monday that the assumption of little change through 2006 represents "the most probahle case

Recent disclosures that the Pen tagon plans to beef up training of Iraqi security forces and press them into action more quickly has fueled speculation that the Bush administration could be preparing to reduce the number of U.S. troops significantly this year. As more Iraqi troops join the fight, the thinking goes, U.S. troops could begin to withdraw

But Lovelace's remarks indicated that the Army is not yet counting on any such reduction. Indeed, the general said, the Army expects to continue rotating active-duty units in and out of Iraq in year-long deployments and is looking for ways to dip even deep-



Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry search a building Monday in Mosul, Iraq. Pentagon plans to beef up training of Iraqi security forces has fueled speculation that the Bush administration could reduce the num ber of U.S. troops in Iraq this year, but the Army's chief operations officer says that may not be the case.

er into reserve forces - even as leaders of the reserves have warned that the Pentagon could

be running out of such units.

"We're making the assumption

that the level of effort is going to continue," Lovelace said. Lovelace, who assumed his post of deputy chief of staff for operations in October, spoke to a group of Pentagon reporters in what had been billed as an informal "meet and greet" session. The conversation quickly focused on the Army's planning for Iraq.

The number of U.S. Army and other forces in Iraq rose to 150,000 last month in what Pentaon officials described as an effort to bolster security ahead of Iraqi elections this weekend.

Lovelace made it clear that the Army's assumption about future U.S. force levels was not meant to prejudge likely trends in either Iraq's security situation or development of its security services. He said the planning is intended to ensure that enough units would be ready if needed and to give U.S. troops a basis on which to organize their own lives.

"It's really about us providing the predictability to our own sol-diers," he said. "It has nothing to do with the Iraqi army; it has everything to do with our own insti-

tutional agility. Asked about the Army's assumption, Lawrence T. Di Rita, the Pentagon's main spokesman, said he was "not surprised" to hear that the Army has chosen such a number, noting the need for service leaders to do such planning. "But it's not going to be the Army's determination." he said. "Ultimately, the determination will be made by the com-

manders" in the field. Jonathan Weisman and Mike Allen of The Washington Post contributed to this

# secret spy group based on wrong information

BY ROBERT BURNS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon says the political uproar over the disclosure of a secret military intelligence group is overblown and based on misinformation about the group's makeup and mission.

Stephen A. Cambone, the Pentagon's top intelligence official, rushed to Capitol Hill on Monday after some members of Congress reacted strongly to a Washington Post report that revealed the existence of the group, which is managed by the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a Cali-

fornia Democrat, and other Democrats called for hearings, but Republicans balked.

"According to The Washington Post the Department of Defense is changing the guidelines with respect to oversight and notification of Congress by military intelligence. Is this true or false?" Fein-stein wrote in a letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Feinstein and others appeared puzzled by the disclosure that the Pentagon had created a new battlefield intelligence group -"strategic support teams," in Pentagon parlance - to perform clandestine missions that had been Some suggested Rumsfeld had

largely the province of the CIA.

skirted congressional oversight to expand his domain.

Pentagon officials told reporters, however, that the arrangement had been worked out in close coordination with the CIA and that appropriate congres al committees had been fully in-

A defense official said lawmakers may not recognize the news media's descriptions of the intelligence group because its name was changed after they were briefed on it last year.

Now called strategic support teams, they were previously known as humint augmentation teams, the official said, speaking only on condition that he not be further identified. (Humint refers to human intelligence, or information provided by spies.)

The teams - each with about 10 mostly civilian linguists, case officers, interrogators and debriefers — are designed to provide the military's conventional and special operations forces with more sustainable battlefield intelligence to support combat and other activities

The defense officials said this is not a new mission for military intelligence; rather, they said, it is being structured in a new way so that it can be provided to battlefield commanders in a more standardized manner. It previously had been done in a more ad hoc way, they said

## Pentagon: Uproar over | More abuse complaints revealed

BY JOHN HENDREN Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON Pentagon WASHINGTON — Pentagon documents released Monday dis-closed that Iraqi prisoners had lodged dozens of abuse com-plaints against U.S. and Iraqi personnel who guarded them at a little-known palace in Baghdad converted to a U.S. prison. Among the allegations were that guards had sodomized a disabled man and killed his brother, whose dying body was tossed into a cell, aton his sister

The documents, obtained in a lawsuit against the federal govern-ment by the American Civil Liberties Union, suggest for the first time that numerous detainees were abused at Adhamiya Palace, one of Saddam Hussein's villas in eastern Baghdad that was used by his son Odai.

Previous cases of abuse of Iraqi prisoners have focused mainly on Abu Ghraib prison

A government contractor inter-viewed by U.S. investigators said as many as 90 incidents of possible abuse took place at the palace, but only a few were detailed in hundreds of pages of documents released Monday.

The documents also touch on alleged abuses in other U.S.-run lockups in Jraa

The latest allegations, human rights activists said, suggested stematic abuse of prisoners at U.S. military detention facilities across the globe. ACLU officials, who have obtained and released thousands of documents in recent months, on Monday accused the

### Report: Iraqi security forces arbitrarily arresting people

LONDON — Iraqi security forces are arbitrarily arresting people and systematically torturing and abusing detainees, Human Rights Watch said in a report released Tuesday.

Iraq's interim government said it has begun an investigation into charges of abuse and torture.

With few exceptions, Iraqi authorities have not acted to stop such mistreatment, the human rights report said. International police advisers, largely funded by the U.S. government, "have turned a blind eye to these rampant abuses," it said.
"The Iraqi interim government led by Prime Minister Ayad Al-

lawi ... appears to be actively taking part, or is at least complicit, in these grave violations of fundamental human rights. Nor has the United States, the United Kingdom or other involved governments publicly taken up these issues as a matter of concern," the report

Human Rights Watch said it interviewed 90 detainees in Iraq of whom 72 claimed to have been tortured or abused

"Typically, detainees reported being blindfolded with their hands tied behind their back while undergoing interrogation. They said their interrogators or guards kicked, slapped and punched them, and beat them all over the body using hosepipes, wooden sticks, iron rods and cables," the report said.

Pentagon of a "woefully inadequate" response to hundreds of incidents of alleged abuse

"The documents that the ACLU has obtained tell a damning story of widespread torture reaching well beyond the walls of Abu Ghsaid the group's director, Anthony D. Romero.

Responding to the latest allega tions, U.S. military officials main-tained that a few low-level troops had committed the abuses, independent of senior commanders

Adhamiya Palace is a prison

overseen by the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, with interrogations conducted at least in part by members of the 5th Special Forces Group of Fort Campbell, Ky.

The alleged abuse at the palace included forced sodomy, electric shocks, cigarette burns and severe beatings. Some allegations by prisoners were corroborated by U.S. civilian military contrac-tors hired by the military to help interrogate detainees, according to the Pentagon documents.

# **DOD** adds post-combat counseling session

### Health assessment set for 3 to 5 months later to treat problems like long-term trauma

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Strings

WASHINGTON — Troops returning from combat will undergo two mental health assessments — one right away, one three to five months later — to make sure they aren't suffering long-term trauma, Department of Defense officials announced this week.

Servicemembers are already required to talk to counselors immediately before and after their deployment. But Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr. assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said often problems like post-traumatic stress disorder take weeks or months to manifest themselves.

"There is a minority percentage who have these issues, and we've also learned there is a concern or stigma about coming in for this," he said. "One of the ways we think we can get at that is to require this to everybody.

"It's really not meant to be a probing, intrusive kind of thing. It's meant to be a 'How are you doing? How is your family doing? If you're having problems, we want to heln.'"

Winkenwerder said having counselors re-examine everyone months after their return will identify more problems, which in turn will allow them to help more troops. Officials will also redesign the current preand postcombat interviews to include a stronger mental health focus.

"Many times just talking helps people deal with these issues," he said. "Some people might be having symptoms and thinking, 'Am I crazy?' and they need to be told, 'No, you're having a psychological reaction to this stressful event.'"

The new program will begin sometime this spring. Winkenwerder said no cost estimates have been calculated for that redesign or the extra counseling.

Meanwhile, officials are wrestling with how to ensure everyone gets the new assessments, particularly Individual Ready Reservists, who don't belong a specific unit once they're demobilized, said Col. Thomas Burke, one of the Pentagon's top psy-

chiatrists and the director of mental health policy for the Defense Department.

Also problematic, he said, are active-duty troops who move to new units or leave the Army after they return from the combat zone.

The services have already been augmenting active-duty mental health providers with contractors, but officials know more help will likely be needed — both in the military clinics as well as at Veterans Administration hospitals, said Burke.

"Do we have enough doctors and facilities for what will be needed five years from now? I suspect not."

Burke said, however, it's too early to tell if the military medical system will be overloaded without a significant increase in providers.

While officials are paying close attention to the trends, he added, "we don't know how long the war will last or how many troops will be involved."

For now, Burke said, "we have enough psychiatrists, but they are all very busy." Winkenwerder said for now, troops who have already returned from deployment will not be included in the extra interviews. Family members also will not be included in the assessments.

But the department does plan to create hot lines for troops or family members to call for assistance and counseling, anony-

mously if they prefer.
Winkenwerder said the department estimates between 8 and 15 percent of combat
veterans suffer some lasting mental health
trauma from their experience. Information
from the interviews will be kept in a confidential database, so officials can use what
they learn to help other veterans in the future.

Department officials also announced this week a \$13 million initiative to decrease smoking, binge drinking and obesity among servicemembers. The campaign will include online education programs and was launched after a 2002 study showed increases in those three areas among all of the services.

Stripes reporter Jon Anderson contributed to this report from the Pentagon.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

# USS Emory S. Land heads for W. Africa mission

#### Ship's tour planned to help nations boost maritime security and forge stronger alliances

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Sailors and Marines aboard the sub tender USS Emory S. Land are heading to the Gulf of Guinea to help African nations boost maritime security and forge stron-

ger alliances.
The 646-foot ship left Rota on Tuesday and will visit Cameroon, Nigeria, Togo, Gabon and Ghana before returning to its home port in La Maddalena, Sardinia, sometime in March.

About 1,400 sailors and Marines are making the deployment.

"This is a working trip," said Marine Col. Barry Cronin, commander of Task Group 60.5 and leader of the mission. "This is not a pleasure cruise. We're going to go down and we're going to work and help these folks. The big thing is to develop the regional approach to maritime security."

Those aboard the ship include members of the Rota-based Marine Corps Security Force Company Europe, who will interact with their African counterparts on how to better protect shipping channels and guard ships.

A group of Navy construction workers, better known as Seabees, will help fix navy vessels and do some community relations projects.

In addition, sailors and officers from some of the West African countries will be riding aboard the Emory S. Land — which was originally designed to service Los Angeles-class submarines. "Coastal security in West Africa, for ex-

ample, is done probably differently by each of the countries that are here," Navy Lt. Cmdr. Dan Trott, the ship's operations officer. "So, we can talk with them and share some ideas on ways to use the few resources that are available in that region."

The mission to the region will include performing some humanitarian aid, the exchange of security and anti-terrorism techniques, HIV-AIDs prevention and awareness efforts and search-and-rescue training.



SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

The USS Emory S. Land is moored at Naval Station Rota, Spain's pier on Monday. The submarine tender is en route to the Gulf of Guinea to train with African military units and foster greater relations with countries in the region.

The Gulf of Guinea, which is on the southwest coast of Africa, is an oil-rich region, and the Bush administration has tried to partner with the developing coastal countries in the area.

The idea of bringing the sub tender to the area sprang from a conference in Naples, Italy, last year.

In October, naval leaders from 17 na-

tions met at the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Security Conference to discuss ways their forces could improve cooperation and security to prevent such threats as smuggling, piracy and drug and weapon trafficking.

For American sailors and Marines, the deployment is a chance to see a part of the world many Americans have not seen.

Petty Officer 2nd Class David Drake

will be making the trip to the Gulf of Guinea aboard the ship and is excited about the chance to learn more about the West African culture.

"The main reason I joined the Navy is to see the world," he said. "And this is a chance to see a part I haven't seen."

E-mail Scott Schonauer at

schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

# Vilseck community honors Pfc. Becker

### 19-year-old was first 2-63 Armor soldier to die in Iraq

BY RICK EMERT Stars and Strings

The military community in Vilseck, Germany, bid farewell last week to the first 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment soldier to die after nearly a year in

Pfc. Gunnar D. Becker, 19, of Forestburg, S.D., died Jan. 13 in Mosul when a .50-caliber machine gun round was accidentally discharged, ricocheted and struck him, according to an Army news release.

In remarks at a Jan. 15 memorial service in Mosul, the battalion's command sergeant major pondered what the platoon was going through after coming so close to bringing home every soldier.

"I just can't imagine their pain," Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Bartoszek was quoted as saying in the release. "They could see the finish line. It's so difficult to lose a soldier like this."

The young tank driver joined the Army in August 2003. His assignment to 2-63 Armor was his first.

In remarks at a memorial service Thursday at the unit's home in Vilseck, Becker was remembered for his sense of humor and for lifting the spirits of his fellow soldiers.

low soldiers.

"Those who knew him were intimately familiar with and couldn't resist Gunnar's positive attitude, good-natured spirit and perennial lighthearted-ness," said Capt. Justin Shell, 2-63 Armor rear de-

tachment commander. "He was the guy with a smile on his face that could bring levity to any situation and is the one his peers looked to, to break the monotony that is inherent to all deployments."

However, when it came to the mission, Becker was serious.

"Pfc. Becker liked to joke around in his off time, but while on patrol, he was all business," Shell said. "He was a business," Shell said. "He was a dedicated, dependable professional that his teammates could rely on in any situation. He was both a skilled tank and [Humvee] driver and ... his platfour's unofficial me-

Becker put the needs of his fellow soldiers before his own, according to Shell. "Gunnar was the 19-year-old

soldier who, of his own volition and without coercion, relinquished his frest and recuperation slot so that a fellow soldier could return stateside to his ailing grandfather," he said. "God reclaimed Pfc. Gunnar Becker from this earth almost 20 years

after he had been born. Undoubtedly, Gunnar meaningfully touched more lives in his 19 years than the average man does in a lifetime." The Vilseck community observed a moment of si-

lence at 10:30 p.m. Saturday, which would have been Becker's 20th birthday. Becker is survived by his parents, Deborah and Duane, and sister, DiJo.

E-mail Rick Emert at: emertr@mail.estripes.osd.mil



KIMBERLY SNOW/Courtesy of U.S. Arr

Company B 1st Sgt. Rodney F. McClinton says a final goodbye to one of his soldiers, Pfc. Gunnar D. Becker of Forestburg, S.D., who died in Iraq Jan. 13. Becker was a tank driver with Company B's second platoon.

Message for our men and women in uniform...

### WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

Pfc. Gunnar D. Becker,

2nd Battalion, 63rd Armo

Regiment, Vilseck, Germany

From coast to coast, thousands of Americans are grateful for what you do and want to show you that they care. To see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America, visit www.stripes.com,

This is just a small token of appreciation, a way to say...





Please visit the site at www.stripes.com and click on the America Supports You button to view the messages of support and to submit your own thank you notes as well!

STARS STRIPES



# Military reveals Gitmo mass hanging attempt

### Officials say detainees sought attention, not death in '03 protest

By PAISLEY DODDS The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - The U.S. military said 23 Guantanamo Bay terror suspects carried out a coordinated effort to hang or strangle themselves in 2003 during a week-long protest in the secretive camp in Cuba.

The military, which had not previously reported the protest, called the actions "self-injurious behavior" aimed at getting attention rather than serious suicide at-

The coordinated attempts were among 350 "self-harm" incidents that year, includ ing 120 so-called "hanging gestures," Lt Col. Leon Sumpter, a spokesman for the detention mission, said Monday.

In the Aug. 18-26, 2003, protest, nearly two dozen prisoners tried to hang or strangle themselves with clothing and other items in their cells, demonstrating "self-in jurious behavior," the U.S. Southern Command in Miami said in a statement. Ten detainees made a mass attempt on Aug. 22

Last year, there were 110 self-harm incidents, Sumpter said.

The 23 prisoners were in steel mesh cells and they can talk to neighbors. It would not have been possible to pass notes. and they are allowed to exercise only one

Only two of the 23 were considered suicide attempts - requiring hospitalization and psychiatric treatment. Officials said they differentiated between a suicide attempt in which a detainee could have died without intervention, and a "gesture" aimed at getting attention.

Sixteen of the 23 remain at Guantanamo; seven have been transferred to other coun-

The military has reported 34 suicide attempts since the camp opened in January 2002, including one prisoner who went into a coma and sustained memory loss from brain damage

The 2003 protests came as the camp suffered a rash of suicide attempts after Maj Gen. Geoffrey Miller took command with a mandate to get more information from prisoners accused of links to al-Oaida or Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime, which had sheltered Osama bin Laden.

Critics linked the two and criticized the delay in reporting the incidents.

"When you have suicide attempts or so-called self-harm incidents, it shows the type of impact indefinite detention can have, but it also points to the extreme measures the Pentagon is taking to cover up mo," said Alistair Hodgett, a spokesman for Amnesty International in Washington.

"What we've seen is that it wasn't simply a rotation of forces [guards] but an attempt to toughen up the interrogation techniques and processes." he added.

Dr. Daryl Matthews, a forensic psychiatrist at the University of Hawaii, said he believed he was misled during a visit to Guantanamo in June 2003 to investigate and make recommendations about detainees mental health care, at the request of the Army surgeon general

"There were many things I wanted to see that I was precluded from seeing, particularly with the interrogation issues," Matthews told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "In no way did I get honest or accurate information. I feel like I was being systematically misled." He criticized some practices, and said it

was "appalling" that medical professionals shared detainees' medical records with interrogators. Some 558 prisoners are at Guantanamo

Bay, many held for more than three years without charge or access to attorneys. Army Gen, Jay Hood, who succeeded

Miller last year, has said the number of incidents has decreased since 2003, when the military set up a psychiatric ward.



Suspected Taliban and al-Qaida detainees sit in a holding area at Camp X-Ray at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during in-processing in January 2002. The military reported Monday that 23 detainees attempted to hang themselves in a mass protest in 2003.

# Chinese hostages on their way home

The Associated Press

Eight Chinese construction workers freed by insurgents in Iraq left for home Tuesday following a delay in their departure from Baghdad, state media reported

A Chinese Embassy official in Jordan said Tuesday the eight arrived in Amman aboard a commercial flight from Baghdad earlier in the day. They were likely to fly to China later Tuesday, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The workers had been scheduled to fly to Amman on Monday but the flight had been turned back because of fighting near Raghdad's airnort Ministry



Four of the eight released Chinese nationals who had been held hos tage in Iraq by members of the Iraqi Insurgent Movement head to Baghdad Airport for China on Tuesday

spokesman Kong Quan had said earlier Tuesday that the return of the eight was delayed by "technical problems." He did not mention the fighting.

The men were seized this month by the Islamic Resistance Movement as they tried to leave Iraq for neighboring Jordan. Their captors said the men had worked at American sites in Iraq

Kong said the workers went to Iraq on their own and were seized while on their way back to China. Kong said no ransom was paid,

but he didn't give any details of negotiations.

In a videotape shown Saturday, the insurgents said they decided release the hostages after China pledged to discourage its citizens from traveling to Iraq

### GI convicted in theft seeks return to duty By JAMES HANNAH

I'm very

that I do have

some qualities

the Army

needs 11

Former Army Reserve

Cathy Kaus

commander

The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio - A former Ohio Army Reserve commander court-martialed for taking Army vehicles in Kuwait so her unit could carry out its mission

in Iraq said she returning to duty pending her

hid for clemen-CV. Maj. Cathy

Kaus, 47, of Day ton, said she plans to report for duty Tuesday at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Kaus said she is not sure what tasks she will be assigned.

"I'm very anxious to get down there and prove to them that I do

have some qualities the Army needs," Kaus said Monday. "I look at it as starting a new

Kaus, a 27-year veteran of the reserves, served six months in a

ter patrolling the southern city of Nasiriyah.

Navy brig after being convicted of theft, abandoning military property, conspiring to abandon military property and neglect.

Her attorney, Philip Cave, said that while the court dismissed Kaus from the military - an officer's version of a dis-

honorable discharge — the dismissal is not final until the anxious ... to clemency and appeals process is prove to them

complete. Kaus among six reservists from the Springfield Ohio-based

656th Transportation Company who court-martialed at a time when some U.S. troops in Iraq were com-

plaining they had to scrounge for equipment and armor for their vehicles

Members of the unit said they needed the equipment to deliver fuel to U.S. forces in Iraq.

## Iraqi oil minister to skip OPEC session

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Oil Minister Thamir Ghadbhan will not attend this month's OPEC meeting because of the coming elections and fuel crisis the country is facing, the Iraqi government said Tues-

The announcement came five days before the ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries were to meet in Vienna

The statement said the oil ministry as well as other ministries will contribute to making Sunday's elections a success. Iraqis will choose a 275-member National Assembly and provincial councils in the 18 provinces Irag has been enduring fuel shortages for weeks

Officials blame the shortage on insurgent attacks on pipelines, ambushes of fuel convoys, a flourishing black market and crumbling infrastructure in Iraq's petroleum industry.

The statement said the Oil Ministry signed a contract with Turkish companies to supply Iraq with 6,000 tons of oil products as well as an agreement with Kuwait to increase shipments of gasoline, kerosine and liquefied gas.

#### Italy mourns death of soldier killed in Iraq

Flags flew at half-staff Tuesday at U.S. military bases in Italy in honor of an Italian soldier killed Friday in Iraq Top Italian officials attended a state funeral in the city of Ferentino, about 43 miles south of Rome, to pay their respects to Sgt. Simone Cola. He was killed Friday by a burst of gunfire while aboard a helicop-

There are about 3,000 Italian troops in Iraq. Cola was the 20th Italian soldier to be killed there, and his death has sparked a debate over whether Italian troops should have better armored equipment.

From staff reports

# Iraqi radio station promoting vote with unusual zeal

BY AAMER MADHANI Chicago Tribune

NEAR BUHRIZ, Iraq - For someone who recently was threatened with having his tongue cut out for encouraging people to vote, Rafit Mahmoud Sayed has surprisingly little sympathy for those who say they fear going to the polls Jan. 30.

On a recent special edition of his radio show, Sayed initially listened patiently to a caller who talked about his desire to vote but feared a suicide bomber might at-

tack the polling station. After a few 44 If you go vote, minutes of the caller speaking about uou can be sure would be to die on the security his way to the balsituation will lot box, Sayed interrupted and upbe improved. braided the caller. "Be sure, this If you don't go election is about

the security situavote, you can tion in Iraq," said expect nothing. Saved. who named his show Rafit Mahmoud Sayed Morning, Orange City after the restive

city of Baqouba the orange-growing capital of Iraq. "If you go vote, you can be sure the security situation will be improved. If you don't go vote,

you can expect nothing Saved and the 70 other employees at the Diyala province's gov ernment-owned radio and television station outside Ragouha have taken on the task of promoting voter participation with somewhat unexpected zeal. Until recently, most of the programming on the station was fairly simple music, a children's show, some call-in programs and a few reporters putting together news broadcasts, relying heavily on information provided by a U.S. psycholog-

next door to the station But when the voter registration process began in November. Saved who is also the station's general manager, decided to make election coverage the station's priority

ical operation's unit stationed

There have been consequences In the nast few weeks, Saved said, several of his employees have received death threats through anonymous notes left at their homes or through neighbors. The threats have jangled nerves, but no one

"If we do not do this, who will do it for Iraq?" Sayed said. "I have received many calls from people thanking me for doing this, because no one else is doing anything like this."

About two weeks ago, Saved said, someone came into his younger brother's tea shop in the nearby town of Mufrek to deliver a message: If Saved didn't stor talking about the election and criticizing the insurgency, someone would come to the radio show host's house and cut out his

tongue.

In a province where insurgents have assassinated eight provincial council members in the past two months and launch daily attacks against Iraqi security forces, Sayed had to take the threat seriously.

Since threat, Sayed has been sleeping at the station. He tries to slip out

during the day to visit with his wife and children, and someone from his home calls him every hour through the night to make sure he is safe.

'Good Morning, Orange

City' radio show

While the province has long been a danger zone for U.S. troops, Radio Divala is frequently cited by U.S. officials as a sign that the rea is ready for the election.

While the television station hasn't been able to compete with the Arabic-language news giants Al Jazeera and Al-Arabiya, Radio Diyala has become popular in the province for its call-in programs that often criticize local government officials and insurgents.

U.S. troops occasionally do training seminars for the station's employees, pay local translators to write transcripts of the shows so they can monitor what is being broadcast and often try to pitch stories to the station.

But the U.S. military does not control the station's content, said Sgt. 1st Class Rodd Coker of the 350th Psychological Operations

The station is owned by the Iraqi Media Network, a property of the central government in Baghdad, which in turn was set up by the Americans



A U.S. Army 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry soldier guards Iraqi men detained during a weapons raid at a gas station in Mosul, Iraq, on Tuesday. Twelve men were detained, and guns and ammunition were recovered. U.S. and Iraqi officials fear a spike in bloodshed and have announced massive security measures to protect voters from possible insurgent attacks during the elections.

# American forces deploy in protect-the-vote mission

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER The Associated Press

ISKANDARIYAH, Iraq — The U.S. military's most critical operation since the capture of Saddam Hussein is putting boat patrols on the Euphrates River, tanks on strategic routes and warplanes overhead in a mission tens of thousands of troops strong: ensuring a credible, Iraqi-run national elec-

The run-up to Sunday's vote is pressing every available American servicemember into action in most of Iraq — assisting an Iraqi-ordered nationwide ban on traffic from Saturday to Monday to block car bombs and other attacks on election targets; and preparing to respond to any Iraqi request for help repelling assaults or tending casualties.

The election plan puts the might of the U.S. military in a full-force back-up role. U.S. forces are funneling stepped-up training, hundreds of fixed barricades and miles of razor wire, weapons, body armor, communication systems generators and the fuel to run them, and even water and "meals-ready-to-eat" rations to Iraqi police and troops charged with the front-line defense of polling sites

U.S. military medical teams here will stand by on 15-minute alert, and soldiers and Marines have intensified sweeps to try to neutralize insurgents ahead of election day.

What U.S. forces won't do, the United States says: thrust themselves into a role in which Americans, not Iraqis, are seen as conducting Iraq's first post-Saddam elections, pivotal to opening the way for any cohesive Iraqi statehood, and clearing the way out for an eventual U.S. troop withdraw-

In this tense area just south of Baghdad, that hands-off prime directive translates into a simple command, when voting opens Sunday at 7 a.m.

"Unless someone tells you otherwise, you will have no contact with the ballots "It Col Bob Durkin ordered officers of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit infantry south of Baghdad, in an election-security planning session.

"They want us to have nothing to do with that, and they're right, Durkin told his officers, gathered around a wall projector in a tent chapel. "It's their elections.

Election strategy sessions among Iraqi and American forces

are taking place near daily in the so-called triangle of death. against a backdrop of attacks targeting both.

"It's important to emphasize there's probably going to be more violence leading up to the elec-tions, we know that," Durkin said at one meeting with police chiefs of the Iskandirivah area, steeling still-wobbly Iraqi security forces the morning after one of their police vehicles miled across a trin wire here, triggering a blast that killed two of the policemen inside. Iraqi forces "must remain at their posts through the elections.

An Iraqi-ordered 8 p.m. election curfew is to go into effect across Iraq by midweek.

Otherwise, however, U.S. and Iraqi officials' election strategies and threat levels differ widely across Iraq

The U.S. military role in some regions will be more hands-on, including ferrying election workers to the polls in some parts of the country

The division of election duties in the so-called triangle of death is clear, however: Despite the intensity of the threat, Iraqis - not Americans — are to run the elections and guard the polling plac-

Superior Motors MSP



- Take advantage of your military status while serving overseas by ordering your new BMW direct from the factory through the BMW Military Sales Program
- Your new BMW will be delivered direct to your hometown Dealership awaiting your return.
- sary transactions eeded to order your BMW can b completed directly over the internet.
- All U.S. military members and DOD civilians and contractors qualify





Superior Motors MSP Tel: (00 973) 17 813 883 Fax: (00 973) 17 813 553 Kinadom of Bahrain

Military Sales Program

www.superiormotorsmsp.com

#### IN THE WORLD

**Kurt Julius** Goldstein, a survivor of Auschwitz, wipes away tears during his speech in front of a photo showing road leading into the camp, during a commemoration of the 60th anni versary of the camp's liberation European leaders marked the anniversary with concern that, in many places, anti-Semitism



# 'A perversion that kills'

# Commemorating the liberation of Auschwitz, leaders worry about anti-Semitism in Europe

BY GEIR MOULSON The Associated Press

BERLIN — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder expressed shame Tuesday ahead of the 60th anniversary of the Auschwitz death camp's liberation, acknowledging that the Nazis had enjoyed wide support and promising Germany would always try to keep alive the memory of the Holocaust.

Across Europe, commemorations of the Red Army's Jan. 27, 1945, liberation of Auschwitz were tinged with the pain of memories and concern that, in many places, anti-Semitism lives on.

"I express my shame in the face of those who were murdered and above all you, who survived the hell of the concentration camps," a somber Schroeder told an audience at a Berlin theater that included Auschwitz survivors.

"The overwhelming majority of Germans living today bears no guilt for the Holocaust, but they do bear a special responsibility," he said.

Some 1.5 million prisoners—
most of them Jews—perished in
gas chambers or died of starvation and disease at Auschwitz.
Overall, 6 million Jews were
killed in the Nazi camps, along
with several million others, including Soviet prisoners of war,

Gypsies, homosexuals and political opponents of the Nazis

"The evil of Nazi ideology did not come from nowhere." Schroeder said. "The brutalization of thought and the loss of moral inhibitions had a history, above all, Nazi ideology was desired by people and man-made."

Leaders across Europe marked the anniversary with warnings that, even now, the battle against anti-Semitism has still to be won.

Inaugurating his country's new Holocaust memorial Tuesday, French President Jacques Chirac called for renewed efforts to stop rising attacks on Jews in France.

"Anti-Semitism is not an opinion," said Chirac, who bowed before the wall inscribed with the names of 76,000 Jews sent to Nazi death camps from France. "It is a perversion. A perversion that

Europe's top human rights body, the Council of Europe, flew its flags at half staff and, in Strasbourg, France, its parliamentary assembly held a minute of slence. Its secretary-general, Terry Davis, urged citizens and governments to "live up to their responsibility" to ensure that genocide in Europe never happens again.

But the chairman of the World Jewish Congress said Europe has much more to do. While Germany "bears particular and unforgivable responsibility," Israel Singer noted that other nations, including Austria and Switzerland, have had to face up to their own World War II role.

"Shamefully, the lessons borne from this continental introspection have been forgotten so quickly, one wonders if they were ever taught widely at all," Singer said at the memorial event in Berlin.

Singer called for the establishment of a Europe-wide commission to spread information about the Holocaust while survivors are still alive.

"Only those who experienced it can make it believable to others," said Noach Flug, an Auschwitz survivor and the president of the International Auschwitz Commit-

Another former Auschwitz prisoner, Kurt Julius Goldstein, recalled being forced onto one of the Nazis "death marches" westward as the German defeat approached, recalling that fewer than 500 prisoners in a 3,000strong column survives.

Auschwitz "is the biggest cemetery in the whole world," Goldstein said.

"None of them has a memorial stone — the Nazis wanted them to be forgotten. We have a duty to prevent that."

parent settling of scores between rival organizedcrime gangs, officials and news reports said Tuesday.

Two Chinese men and one each from Malaysia

#### and East Timor were injured in the attack Friday, police a spokesman said from Barcelona. Publisher convicted of insulting pope

WARSAW, Poland — A Warsaw court convicted and fined a former communist-era government spokesman on Tuesday for insulting Polish-born Pope John Paul II in his satirical weekly. The court ruled that Jerzy Urban, 71, founder

The court ruled that Jerzy Urban, 71, founder and publisher of the weekly magazine "NIE" — Polish for "no" — illegally insulted the pope when he wrote and printed a piece making fun of John Paul's age and frailty before the pontiff's visit to Poland in August 2002.

From The Associated Pres

# Officials: Al-Qaida suspect on FBI list put in U.S. custody

our American

friends

months ago. 77

Senior Pakistani

security official

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Security officials revealed Tuesday that a Tanzanian al-Qaida operative arrested in Pakistan last July for his alleged role in the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings in east Africa that killed more than 200 people has been handed over to U.S. offi-

that killed more than 200 people He would n has been handed over to U.S. officials and flown out of the country. Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, who was on the FBI

list of most wanted terrorists, was shifted out of Pakistan months ago, but the security officials said they don't know where he was taken The

U.S. Embassy in

among those killed.

Islamabad declined to comment. Ghailani, believed to be aged between 30 and 34, has been indicted in the Southern District of New York for his alleged role in the 1998 bombings in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya. Twelve Americans were

He was captured by Pakistani intelligence agents in July after a shootout in the eastern city of Gujrat. About 15 other people, including women and children, were arrested with him, but it's unclear what has happened to

Until Tuesday, officials had refused to provide any information on the whereabouts of Ghailani, who had a \$5 million bounty on his head.

"He (Ghailani) was turned over

to our American friends months ago," a senior security official said on condition of anonymity. He would not say whether Ghailani had been shifted to the U.S.

> high security detention facility for terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay,

Cuba.

"We have no idea, and as a matter of fact we don't ask such questions." he said.

Another security official, who also spoke on condition of anonymi-

ty, said Ghailani was handed over to the United States because he had committed a "heinous crime against them" in Africa.

Ghailani was captured on a tip given to Pakistani officials by Mohammed Naeem Noor Khan, a Pakistani and alleged al-Qaida computer expert, who was arrested about two weeks before him in the eastern city of Lahore.

Information recovered from the suspects' computers allegedly included terrorist surveillance of possible attack targets in the United States and Britain and prompted a U.S. terror warning in August.

### Yushchenko pushing for membership in EU

BY CONSTANT BRAND The Associated Press

STRASBOURG, France
Ukraine's reformist leader Viktor
Yushchenko insisted Tuesday his
country can meet requirements to
join the European Union and
called on the 25-nation bloc to offer
the prospect of full membership.

Addressing European officials during his maiden trip to the West, Yushchenko admitted that Ukraine, poor and with a legacy of corruption, had a long way to go but pledged to "reorganize the government so the process of integration into the EU becomes a real one."

EU officials have cautions that Ukraine — like other potential applicants — could face a long wait before joining the EU. Earlier Tuesday, the European Commission gave no firm commitments, proposing more cooperation on trade, immigration, security and foreign relations.

Yushchenko, who took office on Sunday, said the European Union's future strategy "has to comprise the membership prospect."

"I'm sure Ukraine is the heart of Europe," he told the Council of Europe, the continent's top human rights body. "The future of Europe is impossible without

Ukraine."
Yushchenko's overtures to the
West have alarmed the Kremlin,
which openly backed his opponent, Prime Minister Viktor
Yanukovych, in last year's bitter-

ly contested presidential election. Yushchenko held talks with Russian President Vladimir Puttin on Monday to counter fears that he wants to take his country out of Moscow's sphere of influence. His appearance in Strasbourg and a planned address to the European Parliament in Brussels on Thursday were seen as the start of a delicate balancing act he will have to follow in com-

He told the Council of Europe that Ukraine would seek to build partnerships to the east and west.

EU foreign ministers are expected to review relations with Ukraine at a meeting in Brussels next week. One step Yushchenko would like to see is EU recognition of Ukraine as a market economy and backing for its entry in the World Trade Organization by the end of the year.

### Expert: Terrorists tap into smuggling VIENNA, Austria — Trafficking people for

forced labor and sexual slavery has become the world's No. 2 most lucrative crime, and terrorists are using shadowy underground networks to move around, a senior U.S. counter-trafficking official warned Tuesday.

Human trafficking, particularly the smuggling

Human trafficking, particularly the smuggling and enslavement of young women for prostitution, is tied with weapons smuggling as the second-largest illegal moneymaking activity, said T. March Bell, the U.S. Justice Department's senior special counsel for trafficking issues and civil rights.

#### 4 injured in Samurai sword attack

MADRID, Spain — Assailants wielding Samurai swords attacked four Asians in a Barcelona restaurant, inflicting cuts on the head and hands in an ap-

#### IN THE STATES

Secretary or State Colin Powell, right, speaks last week to National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, his nominated successor, during the inauguration of Petion Washington.



### Senate begins debating Rice's State nomination

BY BARRY SCHWEID The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and other Democrats on Tuesday assailed President Bush's decision to go to war with Iraq and declared they would oppose Condoleezza Rice's nomination as secretary of state as a principal architect of a failed poli-

Kennedy, of Massachusetts, keyed the Democratic attack with charges that Rice, as Bush's national security adviser, provided Congress with "false reasons" for going to war. Had she not, he said in a speech, "it might have changed the course of history."

Sen. Mark Dayton, D-Minn., following up, accused the Bush administration of lying and said he was voting against Rice's confirmation as a way of trying to stop mistruths.

Still, Rice's confirmation as Colin Powell's replacement appeared not to be in doubt. Sens. Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia and Barbara Boxer of California are among other Democrats lined up to get their licks in Tuesday, even though many Democrats may wind up in Rice's column when the vote is taken.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., spoke in Rice's favor.



Republicans rallied behind Rice — and President Bush with briefer speeches. Nine hours have been set aside for the debate, divided equally between the two parties.

Byrd and Boxer, opponents of the war from the outset, had one-hour speeches scheduled. They consider the war a mistake and Bush's postwar strategy inadequate as determined insurgents take a rising toll of American casualties. They hold Rice at least partly responsible, since she was Bush's White House national security adviser during his first term.

On Wednesday, a brief series of statements by senators is expected, setting up the vote to put Rice in charge of U.S. diplomacy.

"We are talking about the safety and security of this country, so I very much and very quickly want to move with Secretary Rice," Senate Republican leader Bill Frist of Tennessee said Tuesday.

Frist said he was disappointed by the delay and was confident the Senate would confirm her on Wednesday.

The White House had been confident that Rice would be approved last week, and State Department officials were alerted to show up Friday morning to greet her with smiles and applause.

But Democratic critics insisted on an opportunity to air their views on the Senate floor.

On the Republican side, Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, which recommended confirmation last week with a 16-2 vote, was scheduled to speak and to summon other Republican senators make speeches in Rice's behalf.

In the meantime, Secretary Powell, who gave his a farewell speech at the State Department on Wednesday, remains on the job.

EUR Ø
LENS

EVERYDAY LOW PRICES FROM EUROLENS CONTACT LENSES!

CONTACT
LENSES Order any four items from Eurolens and receive
a 10% discount

Contact lenses by mail-FREE shipping to European addresses

Germany 0800 1822593 UK 0800 897275 Italy 800 015480

Holland 0800 0221447 Spain 9009 93967 Belgium 0800 73195

www.eurolenscontactlenses.com

# Bush seeks more money for Iraq and Afghanistan

### \$80 billion sought as deficit projections loom

BY ALAN FRAM The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As Congress started to digest a new Bush administration request of \$80 billion to bankroll wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, its top budget analyst on Tuesday projected \$855 billion in deficits for the next decade even without the costs of war and Bush's Social Security plan.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the administration would outline its request for more money for Iraq and Afghanistan later Tuesday. He would provide no detail, but congressional aides said the package would total about \$80 billion and be mostly for U.S. military operations in the two countries.

Congress approved \$25 billion for the wars last summer. Using figures compiled by the Congressional Research Service, which prepares reports for lawmakers, the newest request would push the totals provided for the conflicts and worldwide efforts against terrorism past \$300 billion. That includes \$25 billion already provided for rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan.

McClellan said the administration would request what is needed for U.S. troops and "to support the Iraqi people as they move forward on building a democratic and peaceful future."

Amid the White House's preparations, the Congressional Budget Office predicted the government will accumulate another \$855 billion in deficits over the next decade.

The projection, for the years 2006 through 2015, is almost two-thirds smaller than what congressional budget analysts predicted last fall. But the drop is

largely due to estimating quirks that required it to exclude future Iraq and Afghanistan war costs and other expenses. Last September, their 10-year deficit estimate was \$2.3 trillion.

The CBO also projected this year's shortfall will be \$368 billion. That was close to the \$348 billion deficit for 2005 that it had forecast last fall. The two largest deficits ever in dollar terms were last year's \$412 billion and the \$377 billion gap of 2003.

The budget office estimated if U.S. troop strength in Iraq and Afghanistan declines gradually after 2006, those wars would add \$5590 billion to deficits over the next decade. Including war costs, this year's shortfall should hit about \$400 billion, the budget office said.

Bush won't send the war financing package to Congress until after he unveils his full 2006 budget on Feb. 7, congressional aides said

## Bush meets with black leaders

BY NEDRA PICKLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush is opening the White House this week to black leaders including pastors and legislators, a second-term overture to a community that overwhelmingly opposed his re-election.

"I believe in fresh starts," said Rep. Melvin Watt, nev chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, which has had an adversarial relationship with Bush but has a chance to get off on a better footing at a meeting Wednesday.

The meeting with black lawmakers comes after Bush is receiving 14 black clergy and 10 black leaders in business and non-profit agencies Tuesday afternoon at the White House.

Exit polls showed that Bush received just 11 percent of the black vote in November's election, a slight increase over the 9 percent he received four years earlier. "This is an opportunity for the president to talk about our priorities and the agenda," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said. "It's also an opportunity for the president to listen to issues of interest to these leaders."

During last year's political campaigns, Republican officials said they were making a more concerted effort to reach out to blacks through religious leaders. Bush campaign aides cited issues such as school vouchers and the president's support of a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage that could help him gain more support among blacks.

Bush's efforts to steer more federal dollars to social programs conducted by so-called faith-based groups also has been received favorably by church leaders.

The Congressional Black Caucus, with a membership of 43 Democratic legislators, is meeting with Bush for only the third time as a group, although the president has met separately with individual members on other occasions.

#### U.S. to freeze Syrian man's financial assets

BY JEANNINE AVERSA The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States moved Tuesday to financially paralyze a Syrian man believed to helped bankroll insurgents in Iraq by providing support to al-Qaida's top operative in the war-torn country.

The Treasury Department's action against Sulayman Khalid Darwish means that any banks accounts or financial assets belonging to him that are found in this country are frozen. The United States is also asking the United Nations' member countries to freeze Darwish's assets. The U.S. government contends that Darwish provided financial and material support to terror networks run by Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaida's top operative in Iraq.

The action comes with the Iraq election looming.

"This terrorist financier is helping support al-Zarqawi, who has launched violent acts against our troops, coalition partners and the Iraqi people," Treasury Secretary John Snow said in a statement. "Identifying financial operatives and choking off the flow of blood money moves us closer to our ultimate goal of fracturing

the financial backbone of the Iraqi insurgency and al-Qaida," he said.

The U.S. government alleges that, among other things, Darwish served as one of al-Zarqaw-i's operatives and was involved in fund-raising and recruiting for the organization.

"Darwish handles mostly financial issues for al-Zarqawi, collecting and distributing funds for him," Treasury said. "Specifically, Darwish sent do-

"Specifically, Darwish sent donation of \$10,000 to \$12,000 to al-Zarqawi in Iraq every 20-25 days. Darwish sent the money into Iraq through suicide attack volunteers who were entering the country."

### STARS STRIPES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS E. KELSCH. Publisher THOMAS BIERMANN, General Manager, Europe LT. COL. CYRIL J. SOCHA, Commander

#### News and Editorial

News and coltorial
DAVID MAZARELL Editable Director
DOUG CLAWSON, Managing Editor
DOUG CLAWSON, Managing Editor
ROBS GRIMOSTAFF, Associate Editor
SAM AMBRIELL Largope Boreau Cheft
SOUT BURKESS, Middle Last Boreau Cheft
O

#### Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480. APO AE 09211 INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330 6/3/15 Griecheim

Germany FAX: DSN 349-8416: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601416

Trac. Ltd. 349-3416; cv. (+49) (0 515/5001415
- MML: News: meeting-limit actings and solid at 161 to 161 to

OMBUDSAMA: 161-0945. E-mail-mazzarellad@stripes.osd.mll
OMBUDSAMA: be Ungaro. Send comments to: Ombudsman, and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, 20045-1301. Phone civilian (+1) (401) 364-6932; gr\_amail-acc monte to Ombudeman St

or e-mail: ombudsman@stripes osd mil

How to call us Editor: DSN 349-8237; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601237 Letters: DSN 349-8400; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601403 Sports: DSN 349-8402; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601405 Circulation: DSN 349-8437; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601437 Advertising: DSN 349-8435/443. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601335/443.

#### **News Bureaus**

GERMANY (country code + 49)

Bamberg: Rick Emert, 279th BSB, Unit 27535, Box 23541, APO AE
09139-7535; tel. DSN 469-7957 or civ. (0) 951/36896; fax DSN 469-8007 or civ. (0) 951/300-8007

465-6089, or civ. (0) 5537965077.
467-6089, or civ. (0) 6783-900776; e-mail:

boydtr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Darmstadt: Kevin Dougherty, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8406 or civ. (0) 6155-601406; e-mail: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil; Ward Sanderson, Uni 29480, APO AE 09211; tel DSN 349-8326 or civ. (0) 6155-601326; e-mail: sandersonw@mail.estripes.osd.mil; and

No n. vs.211; tet. usm 49-8526 of city. (U) 6155-601366, e-mail: sandersom@mail.estips.os.d.ml; and Jessica lifigo, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8290 or civ. (I) 6155-601290; e-mail: migo@mail.estips.os.d.ml; dideblery/Manheim: Room 117, Romerstr. 104, 69115 Heidelberg; tel. DSN 370-7010 or civ. (I) 6221/600554; fax civ. (I) 6221/600554; berg; tel. D 6221/23421

Kaiserslautern/Spangdahlem: APO AE 09227-3717; tel. DSI 489-6585 or civ. (0) 631/52104 or (0) 631/57140; fax civ. (0 631/50696 Stuttgart: Charlie Coon, CMR 423, Box 465, APO AE 09107-0465

tel. DSN 421-2088 or civ. 0711-7292088: e-mail:

tat USN 421-4288 or cv. 0/11-729288, e-mail.
coordigmal fathgread all sufficient of the property of the cv. 0/31-467-7001.
tat cv. (0) 0/31-700372, e-mail. Inversi@mail.eshipes.od.mil active. (0) 0/31-700372, e-mail. Inversi@mail.eshipes.od.mil active. (3) 0/31-700372, e-mail. Inversi@mail.eshipes.od.mil active.od.mil acti

pures: samura unitz and Jason Chiudy, PSC 817, Box 56, PFO Ak 09622; tel. DSN 626-5157 and 626-5158 or civ. (+39) (081) 588-5157 and 588-5158; fax DSN 626-5150 or civ. (+39) (081) 588-5150; e-mail; jortsz-@mail.estripes.osd.mil; chudyj@mail.estripes.osd.mil SPAIN

Rota: Scott Schonauer, PSC 819, Box 1, FPO AE 09645; tel. DSN 727-1099 or civ. (+34) (956) 82-1099; fax DSN 727-1034 or civ. (+34) (956) 82-1034 e-mail: schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

e-man: scrudial#stsgmanl.ssmpss.pss.mil
VNITED KINGDOM
RAF Mildenhall: Roo Jansen, Building 455 ECSS-UK, RAF Mildenhall,
APO AE 09459; tel. DSN: 238-4888 or civ. (+44) (0)
1638/544868; fax civ. (+44) (0) 1638/718013;

e-mail: iensenr@mail. WASHINGTON D.C. Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; tel. (+1) (202) 761-0859; e-mail

Washington UC 20045-1931; tel. (+1) (202); 761-0859; e-mail: cikosnn@stipies sod.mil Lisa Burgess, fel civ. (+1) (703) 692-1875; Jon Anderson, tel (+1) (703) 695-5942; and teo Shane, 529 Lth Street NW, Su 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; tel civ. (+1) (202) 761-1183; fax civ. (+1) (202) 761-0890; e-mail: burgess@stripes.osd.mil; andersom@stripes.osd.mil and share@stripes.sod.mil;

Printed in Italy by Editrice Telestamna

Stars and Stripes (USPS 017252) is published daily (except Christma Stars and Stripes (USFS 017252) is published daily (occept Christmas and Hew Year's) for 50 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW. Satle 350, Weshington DC 20045-1301, Peri-odicals postage paid of Washington, DC. Pottomater. See and address changes to European Stars and Stripes, Unit 22450, APO AE 02211.

This newspaper is authorized for publication by the Department of De This necessaries a submotive for publication by the Department of the Interest for members of the Million phoriesce ventures. Shower, the content of the SATISS and STRETS are submitted, and min on this because that of the SATISS and STRETS are submitted and min of this because the submitted of the SATISS and STRETS are part distributed frough efficial contentions and one supported but for distributed in the submitted frough efficial countries and southern and one submitted through relationship to the submitted of the submitted one could resident of the submitted one could resident our submitted of the submitted one could resident our submitted of the submitted one could resident our submitted our submitted of the submitted or submitted our submitted

#### Where's the incentive?

I hear of re-enlistment bonuses all the time. I and others like me are stuck in the political policies put forth to us with no concern for each individual's history.

A lot of personnel don't understand or know of the problems we face. I have served our country and flag for 34 years.

We are technicians. Many of us are past our mandatory removal date. Once we hit this stage, we are told to put in an exemption-to-policy letter or we lose our position. Other personnel who are not military technicians and reach this stage can go on to retire. The military says it will do everything possible to stop discrimination, but this is a form of it. Once we hit this point,

where is the incentive? ■ We cannot accept bonuses. ■ We don't receive pay increases (ex-

cept cost of living). ■ We don't get promotions

 We must maintain our military status. I have served with units that, through my effort and fortitude, have achieved national recognition. I was given none for these efforts nor were the soldiers who worked for me.

I would like Congress to stand back and see through our eyes and then judge the standards it submits us to I am currently on extension, although I have not received anything stating so

What incentive do we as soldiers have now? Go jobless at home, or stay in the military.

Master Sgt. William Russell Camp Spearhead, Kuwait

#### Warming trend is nothing new

I had a hearty laugh while reading "The real story on columnist" (Jan. 20). We have a Michael Moore clone attack-

ing "big business" and "neo-cons" like they are contagious diseases out to infect the "unwitting readers.

It is true that the Earth is warming at its surface. In fact, the environmentalists are more than happy to point out that the lat-

#### Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

#### Send your letters to:

U.S. Mail: International mail: Stars and Stripes Stars and Stripes Hnit 29480 Postfach 1330 APO AE 09211 64345 Griesheim

Via fax: [Country code +49] (0) 6155/601395; DSN 349-8395

E-mail: letters@mail.estripes.osd.mil

est warming trend has been occurring for about a decade. The age of the Earth range es from 5,000 years to billions of years, depending on whom you ask. So, a decade or two of global warming is like the 24-hour flu to an adult.

The average surface temperatures in the continental United States between 1895 and 2000 are available from the National Climatic Data Center. The hottest year during that time was 1998 (President Clinton presiding) and the second hottest year was 1934 (President Franklin D. Roosevelt presiding), the difference of the two a thunderous 0.01 degrees Fahrenheit History buffs will note that the Great Depression began in 1929 and ended in 1941. Big business was not so big during that

What the environmentalists are not discussing is the evidence that humans do not cause global warming. Any rise in average surface temperatures on the planet, caused by humans, must result from low-troposphere warming (the section of our atmosphere one to five miles above the Earth's surface) where greenhouse gasses congregate. Satellites and weather

halloons do not show low tronosphere warming

The air temperature at the surface of the Earth is a result of activities internal to the atmosphere and activities external to the atmosphere. Internal examples are, but not limited to warming in the troposphere (due to greenhouse gasses) or Pacific Decadal Oscillation, a naturally occurring phenomenon that strikes the Pacific Ocean about every 30 years. An example of external activity would

be the exothermic effects of the large hydrogen bomb around which we currently orbit.

So, while the greenhouse gas region of the atmosphere is not warming, the sur-face of the Earth is. I think it is only fair that the sun should share in the blame for global warming Scott Spahr

Schweinfurt, Germany

#### Review of TV spots

I admired the writer of "Foglesong TV spots defended" (Jan. 19) for supporting the commander; however, there is a difference between supporting and ignoring the facts. I know you cannot speak ill of your leaders, but being untruthful about their shortcomings shouldn't be considered "speaking ill of."

I'm sure all that have been subjected to the general's commercials have noticed an enormous ego is at work. Sure, he has the troops (props) in the spots, sure he has a message, and, above all, I think he feels that his messages are good for the times.

Some self-examination might be beneficial. If the general would view some of the other service commanders' messages and then objectively review his own messages, I think he will see the contrast. Their messages carry a theme of sincere caring and they appear truly concerned about the welfare of the troops at home and in the field. Seems the staff is protecting the general from honest criticism, for if he truly knew how he comes across, I believe he would change his approach. Chief Master Sgt. Leon Lada (retired)

Ramstein, Germany

# Healthy lifestyle choices can cut cancer cases

e've all read this message: Heart disease claims more American lives than any other disease Now here's a new one: Cancer has sur-

sed heart disease as the nation's most lethal illness for those younger than 85. The American Cancer Society has report-

ed that 476,009 Americans under 85 died of cancer in 2002, the most recent year for which statistics are available. At the same time, heart disease killed 450,637 people under that age.

While those raw numbers are significant and eye opening - they tell only part of the story

More people are surviving cancer and

heart disease, signs of progress on both fronts. The trends represent victories for medical discoveries, early screening, new drugs, decreases in smoking among adults and better surgical techniques. Among cancer patients, the five-year survival rate has improved from one in two in the 1970s to nearly three in four today.

Less encouraging news is that Americans still don't make enough right lifestyle choices - throwing away the cigarettes. eating healthier foods and exercising regularly. About a third of all cancers are related to smoking and another third to obesity, poor diets and lack of exercise, the same poor lifestyle choices that contribute to heart disease. And those poor choices will produce new

cancer cases. Researchers estimate that about 1.4 million new cancer cases will occur this year.

Lung cancer remains the biggest killer,

estimated to kill more than 163,500 people this year. Prostate cancer will strike 232,090 men and kill 30,350. Breast cancer will be diagnosed in 211,240 women; it will kill 40 410

Not all deaths are preventable, and researchers yearn to learn more about how genetics and environmental factors relate to cancer and heart disease.

The right lifestyle choices, however, can improve survival odds. Those choices from eating better to quitting a nicotine habit - are in our hands.

This editorial appeared in Sunday's Dallas Morning

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

#### Doonesbury Flashbacks

GENERAL? FOX NEWS! IT'S GETTING A LITTLE TOO HAIRY OUT THERE TO BIRDDOG ALL THE POSI-TIVE STORIES. WOULD YOU HAVE ONE FOR US?







STARS AND STRIPES WEB SITE: WWW.STRIPES.COM

#### **OPINION**

# With our support, Abbas can make progress

wo months after the death of Yasser Arafat, politicians such as Presi-dent Bush and Britain's Tony Blair are still making speeches "moment of opportunity" for progress toward an Israeli-Palestinian peace. But moments pass quickly and, in the Gaza Strip, this one already is in mo-

Mahmoud Abbas, who was inaugurated as the new Palestinian president only [11] days ago, was immediately challenged by Islamic militants as well as by fighters from his own Fatah organization who defied his calls for a cease-fire by staging attacks on Israeli checkpoints and firing rockets at a nearby town. Israel responded with its own deadly raids and threatened a full-scale invasion of Gaza.

To his credit. Abbas responded decisively, deploying hundreds of Palestinian security forces to prevent further violence, in cooperation with Israel. In doing so, he preserved his new administration from an instant loss of authority. But the situation remains both fluid and fragile: It could be helped by timely intervention from the foreign leaders who have been making those speeches

The first burden still lies with Abbas who must demonstrate both to his people and to the world that he will decisively break with Arafat's losing strategy of pub-licly deploring violence against Israel while preserving and sometimes encouraging terrorist organizations

Abbas' intention has been to persuade the militants to agree to a cease-fire. While that might be a useful move, the events of [last] week have demonstrated that political persuasion alone will not suffice. The deployment of Palestinian forces was an important first step by Abbas toward asserting military as well as political authority. But it needs to be quickly followed up with reorganization of the various Palestinian security services and disarming those outside them

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who suspended contacts with Abbas as a way of pressing for action, is cooperating with the Palestinian effort to impose order. As he prepares for the planned withdrawal of Israeli settlements and soldiers from Gaza Sharon has much to gain through collaboration with Abbas. A peaceful pullout governed by accord between the Palestinian Authority and Israel would be a political victory for both leaders, while a unilateral Israeli withdrawal under fire is exactly what extremist groups are aiming at.

If the rockets and suicide bombings continue, Israel may have no choice but to take its own defensive action. But if Ahhas gets results, Israel should cease its attacks on



Many in Israel will oppose that step They prefer the policy Sharon pursued until November, which was to unilaterally redraw Israel's borders and indefinitely postpone negotiations with Palestinians.

That's where Bush, Blair and others ought to come in. U.S. officials have been rightly pressing Abbas not to shrink from

the militants' challenge, and they have been encouraging Israel to show restraint. But the administration also has a role to play in encouraging and brokering a more enduring Israeli-Palestinian security agreement that maximizes the chances for endthe violence in Gaza. If much-talked-about moment is really to be seized, now is the time for U.S. involvement.

PAGE 13

# Plan for study on gun ownership won't leave holster

National Research Council, billed as "advisers to the nation on science, engineering and medicine," released a report last month that found there's not enough statistical evi-

dence available to deter-LR. Labbe mine whether efforts to control violence by re-

> stricting guns are effec-The spinmeisters on both sides of the guncontrol-vs.-gun-rights

> debate could have a heyday with this The NRC's analysis

says that what America needs is a federally supported "robust research program" on firearms to

answer questions such as whether there should be restrictions on who may possess firearms, on the number or types of guns that can be purchased, and whether safety locks should be required.

"These and many related policy questions cannot be answered definitively because of large gaps in the existing science base, Charles F. Wellford, a professor of criminal justice at the University of Maryland, College Park, and the chairman of the committee that wrote the report, said in a news re-

A "federal" research project, huh? Think Alfred Kinsey had a tough time getting 1950s America to talk honestly about human sevuality? That was nothing compared to get. ting gun owners in 2005 to truthfully tell the government about what's in their safes and night stands. Imagine, if you will, the telephone rings

What voice says: "Ms. Labbe, we're call-ing today on behalf of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct a survey on gun ownership in America."

What gun owner hears: "We're the feds We have your name, we have your phone number, we know where you live, and we think gun owners are diseased."

What voice says: "How many firearms do

What gun owner says: "None of your busi-

Click. Dial tone

On an intellectual level, the need for a definitive study is apparent. Just look at the point/counterpoints that are spun these days from an issue such as the impact of right-to-carry laws. Thirty-four states, including Texas, have statutes that allow certain adults to carry concealed handguns. Every time another state legislature takes a look at proposing a similar law, the gun-control people go ballistic about how it will lead to increased violent crime.

The gun-rights crowd matches the rhetoric by saving such laws decrease violent crime. Both sides cite existing studies that bolster their arguments

Just this month, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence United With the Million Mom March (seriously, that's what's on the top of the electronic news release) warned that "most U.S. states don't make the grade when it comes to gun violence prevention laws.

Of course, the Brady Center assumes that any state with a concealed-carry law is an evil place and automatically marks it down even though, according to the NRC, definitive research to support that supposition doesn't exist.

The NRC report said that new research tools are needed to evaluate right-to-carry laws - that it is impossible to draw any strong conclusions about their effects from research on hand. The center is calling for the development of a National Violent Death Reporting System and a National Incident-Based Reporting System to begin collecting data.

Yet here's the problem with an "incident-based" reporting system: When a gun owner successfully thwarts a crime by "using" a firearm often it occurs without a shot being fired. If you scare off an intruder at your home by displaying a gun, what are the odds that you'll call the local sheriff to report it? Slim

When is an incident not an incident? When it's not reported.

But now we're back to the "anecdotes do not solid data make" refrain that can legitimately be voiced by the gun-control advo-

When asked her thoughts about a national

research project on firearm ownership, Alice Tripp provided an answer that reflects the quandary that some gun owners might find themselves in if queried in a survey.

"My immediate response would be ... I ain't saying nothing!" said Tripp, an Austin lobbyist for the Texas State Rifle Association. "But then my second impulse is to want people to understand that I consider protecting rights to be paramount and that personal safety is necessary and instinctive.

It is important to note that the NRC study does not address specific state or federal gun policies - only the quality of available research data on firearm violence, control and prevention efforts.

And the quality isn't good, not if opposing sides can look at existing studies on, say, suicide and criminal violence and reach conflicting conclusions on what role gun ownership by private citizens plays in those statis-

But good luck, Uncle Sam, on gathering accurate data on who owns firearms.

Jill "J.R." Labbe is a senior editorial writer and columnist for the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

#### Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



# **Cape Cod hit hard by storm**

#### Hurricane-force winds create massive snow drifts

BY MATT PITTA The Associated Press

DENNIS, Mass. - Charlie Chamberlain has seen a lot of Cape Cod winters in his nearly 80 years. But the Dennis resident says last weekend's tops every-

"I've never seen it as bad as this." Chamberlain. 76, said as he watched cleanup operations at the Patriot Square shopping plaza in South Dennis on Monday afternoon

In to three feet of snow combined with hurricane-force winds piled up snow drifts several feet high across Cape Cod. The sheer volume of the snow rendered traditional snow plows useless.

Instead, large front-end loaders were called in to

clear highways, secondary roads and parking lots.

As crews worked to clear Great Western Road in Dennis, they encountered stranded cars, abandoned by their helpless drivers during the height of the storm on Sunday.

All over Massachusetts on Monday, massive piles of snow, 10 to 15 feet high, loomed over street corners, driveways and parking lots.

With temperatures expected to stay below freezing for the next few days, the snow is not going any-

"It looks like temperatures are going to stay basi-

cally in the 20s for the rest of the week," said Tracy McCormick, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Taunton

And just to add insult to injury, more snow is expected on Wednesday morning, albeit "not nearly as much as the Blizzard of '05," she said.

Logan International Airport battled a power outage on Monday that slowed things down again just hours after it had resumed operations following the

Many residents were still stuck at home Monday because towns abandoned plowing efforts that were futile against winds that piled the snow into drifts up to six feet high. Bruce MacNavr. 46, was trapped in his home in South Dennis for 24 hours before the

plows reached him on Monday afternoon. A second day of canceled classes for many Massachusetts schools on Tuesday means more winter fun for young children.

They love it, no school, that's good for them said Elizabeth Kennelley, 43, of Dennis, as she left one of the few open supermarkets on Cape Cod with a gallon of milk and loaf of bread.

Some residents of the South shore were blocked from getting into their houses by ocean flooding that later froze. Seaside homes in Hull and Scituate resembled igloos after they were encased in ice by winds whipping up spray from the crashing waves.

Hugo Cerna on Monday shovels a walkway covered with almost five feet of snow after a weekend blizzard in Somerville, Mass., on Monday,

# Ex-priest on trial in Mass.

BY DENISE LAVOIE The Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE. Mass CAMBRIDGE, Mass. —
Former priest Paul Shanley told a
6-year-old boy, "If you tell, no one
will believe you," before molesting him at a Newton parish in the early 1980s, a prosecutor said Tuesday. But the defense said his story was concocted in order to bring a lawsuit.

The boy didn't tell anyone for nearly 20 years, recovering his memories of the alleged abuse only after hearing of media reports about the sex scandal in the Boston Archdiocese, Assistant District Attorney Lynn Rooney said during opening statements in Shanlev's child rape trial in Middlesex Superior Court.

"Those memories were buried deep inside," Rooney said. Shanley's lawyer Frank Mon-dano said the accuser made up the allegations against Shanley to get in on the multimillion-dollar settlements for victims in the scandal.

accuser repeatedly changed his story after coming forward in early 2002, Mondano



Opening statements were sched uled to begin Tuesday in the child rape case against defrocked Catholic priest Paul Shanley, who appeared in court last Thursday.

said. And he said he would call expert witnesses to debunk the science behind so-called repressed memories ersonal injury lawyers."

Rooney acknowledged that the man got \$500,000 in a civil settlement with the archdiocese last year, but she said his willingness to testify publicly about being re-peatedly raped by Shanley shows he is motivated by more than money

Shanley. who turned 74 on Tuesday, faces three charges of raping a child and two charges of indecent assault and battery on a

The maximum sentence is life

#### Study: Many blacks cite AIDS plot BY DARRYL FEARS they believed that AIDS was proin the context of prevention. I

The Washington Post

More than 20 years after the AIDS epidemic arrived in the United States, a significant proportion of blacks embrace the the ory that government scientists created the disease to control or wipe out their communities, according to a study released Tuesday by Rand Corp. and Oregon State University.

That belief markedly hurts efforts to prevent the spread of the disease among black Americans, the study's authors and activists

Blacks represent 13 percent of the U.S. population, according to Census Bureau figures, yet they account for 50 percent of new HIV infections in the nation, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nearly half of the 500 Afri-can-Americans surveyed said that HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is man-made. The study, which was supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, appears in the Feb. 1 edition of the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes.

More than one-quarter said

duced in a government laboratorv, and 12 percent believed it was created and spread by the CIA.

A slight majority said they be lieve that a cure for AIDS is being withheld from the poor. Forty-four percent said people who take the new medicines for HIV are government guinea pigs, and 15 percent said AIDS is a form of genocide against black people.

At the same time, 75 percent said they believe medical and public health agencies are working to stop the spread of AIDS in black communities. But the responses, which varied only slightly by age. gender, education and income level, alarmed the researchers.

"As a researcher knowing that these beliefs were out there, I wasn't as surprised as people I share the study with." said Laura Bogart, a behavioral scientist for the Rand Corp., who co-authored the study with Sheryl Thorburn, associate professor in the College of Health and Human Sciences at Oregon State

"But the findings are striking, and a wake-up call to the prevention community," Bogart said.
"The prevention community has not addressed conspiracy beliefs think that a lot of people involved in prevention may not be from the community where they are trying to prevent HIV."

The findings were also no surprise to Na'im Akbar, a professor of psychology at Florida State University who specializes in behavior of blacks

This is not a bunch of crazy people running around saying they're out to get us," Akbar said. The be-lief "comes from the reality of 300 years of slavery and 100 years of

post-slavery exploitation."

Akbar cited the Tuskegee experiment conducted by the feder-al government between 1932 and 1972. In it, scientists told black men they were being treated for syphilis but actually withheld treatment so they could study the course of the dis

Today, he said, blacks are more likely to live in communities near pollution sources, such as freeways and oil refineries, and far from health care centers. "There are a lot of indicators that our lives are not valued." Akbar said.

Black women made up 73 per-cent of new HIV cases among women in 2003, and black men represented 40 percent of new cases according to the most recent federal figures available.

#### Plan adopted for N.M. drilling

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - Despite protests by the governor and environmentalists, the federal government decided to open nearly all of New Mexico's vast Otero Mesa for exploratory drilling but vowed that the oil and gas industry won't have a "free-for-all.

The decision Monday by the Bureau of Land Management permanently protects about 124,000 acres of the roughly 2 million-acre mesa, one of North America's largest remaining pieces of Chi-huahuan desert grassland.

cluding the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and Denver-based Earthjustice, promised a court battle.

"The state is going to fight this with everything we've got," Richardson said

Gov. Bill Richardson and environmentalists, in

Fire disrupts N.Y. subway lines

NEW YORK - One of the city's busiest subway lines has been suspended and another severely limited, possibly for years, after a fire destroyed an equipment room at a station in lower Manhattan.

The C line — which runs through Manhattan. Brooklyn and Queens — was suspended Sunday following the fire at the Chambers Street station and will be out of service indefinitely, the Metropolitan Transportion Authority said Monday.

The MTA said it also was severely limiting the A line, which runs parallel to the C line.

The MTA said service may be gradually re-stored, but it could take a few years to completely repair the damaged equipment and return the lines to full service

From The Associated Press

#### 17 priests disciplined in N.Y. The Associated Press

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y.
- The Roman Catholic Church has disciplined 17 priests of a New York diocese for sexual

abuse allegations.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre on Long Island informed parishioners of the actions in a three-page letter listing the status of sex abuse cases against 23

Bishop William F. Murphy reported that eight priest were de-frocked by the Vatican, nine were permanently suspended, three await canonical trials and two have been cleared. Proceedings against another have been deferred.

Several victims' rights groups criticized the bishop, saying the identities of the disciplined priests should be made public.

# 'Aviator' nabs 11 Oscar nominations



MIRAMAX FILMS/AF

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio appears in a scene from "The Aviator," which was nominated Tuesday for 11 Academy Awards, including best picture and best actor for DiCaprio as Howard Hughes.

# 'Million Dollar Baby' and 'Finding Neverland' get 7 nods

BY DAVID GERMAIN

The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. -The Howard Hughes epic "The led Academy Awards contenders with 11 nominations Tuesday, including best picture, plus acting honors for Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett and Alan Alda and a directing slot for Martin Scorsese.

The boxing saga "Million Dollar Baby" and the J.M. Barrie tale "Finding Neverland" followed with seven nominations each, among them best picture and acting nominations for Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman, Hilary Swank and Johnny Depp.

Eastwood also got a directing nomination for "Million Dollar

The other best-picture nominees were the Ray Charles por-trait "Ray" and the buddy comedy "Sideways."

Along with Eastwood, Jamie Foxx also scored two nominations, as best actor for the title

supporting actor as a taxi driver whose cab is hijacked by a hit man in "Collat-

Starring as

aviation trail-

blazer and Hol-

lywood rebel

Hughes, Di-

also Caprio was nominated for best actor. He and Foxx will compete against Depp as "Peter Pan" playwright Barrie in "Finding Neverland": Eastwood as a cantankerous boxing trainer in "Million Dollar Baby"; and Don Cheadle for "Hotel Rwanda," starring as hotel manager Paul Rusesabagi-

na, who sheltered refugees from The best-actress category presents a rematch of the 1999 showdown, when underdog Swank won the Oscar for "Boys Don't

the Rwandan genocide



Eastwood

who had been the front-runner for "American Beauty.' This time. Swank

Cry" over An-nette Bening,

nominated as a bullheaded boxing champ in "Million Dollar Baby." Bening was chosen

for "Being Julia," in which she plays an aging 1930s stage diva exacting wickedly comic revenge on the men in her life and a young rival.

Both actresses won Golden Globes for the roles, Swank for best dramatic actress, Bening for actress in a musical or comedy. Also nominated for the best-ac-

tress Oscar were Catalina Sandino Moreno as a Colombian woman imperiled when she signs on to smuggle heroin in "Maria Full of Grace"; Imelda Staunton

Britain who performs illegal abortions on the side in "Vera Drake"; and Kate Winslet as a woman who has had memories of her ex-boyfriend erased in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

Joining Eastwood and Scorsese among directing nominees are Taylor Hackford for "Ray"; Mike Leigh for "Vera Drake"; and Alex-

ander Payne for "Sideways." Scorsese, arguably the most prominent modern filmmaker who has never won an Oscar, also has never delivered a hest-nic-

Considered a nominal best-pic-ture favorite, "The Aviator" offers him a shot to finally triumph on Oscar night, though East-wood's "Million Dollar Baby" is a

formidable competitor. "The Aviator" won the Golden Globe for best-dramatic film, but Eastwood beat out Scorsese for the directing prize at the Globes.

ABC will broadcast the Oscars live Feb. 27 from Hollywood. Chris Rock is the show's host.

# Razzies pick Hollywood's worst

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - The Razzies, which mock the worst in film, gave "Catwoman" a leading seven nominations Monday, among them worst picture, worst actress for Halle Berry and worst supporting players for Sharon Stone and Lambert Wilson. "Catwoman" also was nominated for worst screen couple for Berry with either Stone or co-star Ben iamin Bratt "'Catwoman' is the cinematic

equivalent of a clump in the cat-litter box," Razzies founder John Wilson said. The historical bomb ander" was second w

ander" was second with six Razzie nominations, including worst picture, actor Colin Farrell, actress Angelina Jolie and director Oliver Stone

The other worst-picture contenders were the family action comedy "Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2, the holiday debacle "Surviving Christmas" and the cross-dressing comedy "White Chicks."

President Bush and some of his advisers received worst-acting nominations for their appearances in news and archival footage in "Fahrenheit Michael Moore's 9/11," which assails Bush for his post-Sept. 11 actions.

Bush was nominated for worst actor, while Secretary of State-designate Condoleezza Rice got a nomination for worst supporting actress and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld for worst supporting actor.

Along with Bush and Farrell. worst-actor nominees were Ben

Affleck for "Jersey Girl" and "Sur-viving Christmas"; Vin Diesel for "The Chronicles of Riddick; and "The Chronicles of Riddick; and Ben Stiller for "Along Came Polly," "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy," "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story," "Envy" and "Starsky & Hutch." Joining Berry and Jolie as worst-actress contenders were Hi-

lary Duff for "A Cinderella Story" and "Raise Your Voice," and two pairs of siblings: Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen for "New York Minute" and Shawn and Marlon Wayans, who play federal agents in drag in "White Chicks. Olsen twins and the Wayans brothers also had nominations as worst screen couples

Selected by about 500 members of the Golden Raspberry Foundation, Razzie winners will be announced Feb. 26.



Ed McMahon, left, speaks with Jay Leno, the host of "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," during a tribute to Johnny Carson during the taping of Monday's show in Burbank, Calif. Carson died Sunday at 79.

#### Leno remembers Carson

BY CHRIS T. NGUYEN The Associated Press

BURBANK, Calif. - Jay Leno turned back the clock on "The Tonight Show" with a touching hourlong tribute to Johnny Carson that mixed warm remembrances from the former host's friends with the more outrageous moments during Carson's three-decade reign as the king of late-night comedy

Carson, who handed the show's reins over to Leno when he re tired nearly 13 years ago, died Sunday of complications from emphysema. He was 79

"As you all know, this has been a tough 24 hours for those of us that are fans of Johnny Carson." a subdued Leno said as he opened the show.

"Johnny was the best, plain and simple," Leno said as his studio audience sat in rapt silence. "And the best way to sum it up is, I guess, you know, you had to be there. If you were fortunate enough to be watching during Johnny's 30-year run, consider vourself lucky, because vou're

not going to see the likes of him

Although it was a somber opening, the laughs soon followed when Leno welcomed to the show three of Carson's closest friends, former "Tonight Show" announcer Ed McMahon and comedians Don Rickles and Bob Newhart.

For years, Carson was late-night television's arbiter of comedy, as clips showed him introducing a stable of future stars, including a dark-haired Leno. a young Roseanne, a bushy-haired Steven Wright, and Drew Carey, who Carson stunned by calling him over to his desk to offer his congratulations after Carey's first standup appearance.

"That was the greatest day of my whole life," Carey told Leno on Monday.

Another clip showed him giving the coveted OK sign to a young Jerry Seinfeld.

Missing from Monday's show was Carson's longtime bandleader Doc Severinsen, but he made an appearance on CNN's "Larry King Live," where he told King he was still grieving.



#### Rhein BMW presents Valentine's Day Greetings Brought to you by Stars and Stripes

A great way to show you care. Surprise them with a Valentine's Day Greeting!

Messages in the Mid-East edition begin at no charge!

Messages in the European edition start at \$29 \*Five lucky winners, chosen at random will receive an official

BMW-Williams Formula One Team Jacket Visit www.stripes.com, Click on the link for Valentine's Day

Greetings publish in Stars and Stripes on February 14!

Messages for the Mid-East edition will also publish on www.stripes.com beginning 11 Feb Deadline for messages 27 Jan 05, Drawing on 14 Feb 05

PAGE 16 Stars and Strip

#### Pretty weeds

WA WENATCHEE -They look like simple yellow flowers amid golden hills, but the blooms on the front of the new North Central Washington telephone book are just

Even the former U.S. Forest Service employee who won the annual Cover Photo Contest sponsored by Haga-done Directories Inc. knew it

showed Dalmatian toadflax, listed as a noxious weed by Washington, Oregon, Idaho and other states.

'It's pretty, but it's very obnoxious," said Terry Nowka, coordina tor of the Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board for 13 years. "Every year I catch little old ladies digging it up and planting it in their flower beds.'

#### Faker gets iail time

ME MACHIAS — A 54-year-old man who routinely complained of fake chest pains to avoid paying the tab for restaurant meals may have gotten his just desserts.

A judge sentenced Elias I. Elias

to 90 days in jail after he pleaded guilty to theft of services.

The Aug. 5 incident at the Townhouse Restaurant marked the 13th time that Elias tried to skip out on the check by pretending he had trouble breathing and was having a heart attack.

Authorities said Elias would order dinner and drinks, eat and enjoy, then fake his need for medi cal assistance when the check arrived. He would be taken to a local hospital but usually left before police arrived.

Elias' court-appointed attorney, Jeffrey Davidson, told the judge that the homeless and unemployed man just wanted to eat a restaurant meal "like anybody else."

#### Fatal wreck kills three

HILO — Three people were killed in a traffic accident in South Kohala, Big Island fire officials said.

One survivor was taken to North Hawaii Community Hospital in extremely critical condition, they

The accident occurred on Oueen Kaahumanu Highway when two vehicles collided head-on.

The three people who died showed no signs of life when firefighters arrived at the scene, the officials said

#### **Environmental lottery**

NJ TRENTON — The New Jersev Lottery could generate a different kind of green, if plans for a new environmentally beneficial game get off the ground.

Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley Campbell promised to discuss the idea for a lottery game to benefit the environment with the state treasurer, but cautioned that approval of such a game is not a sure thing.

Green Action Alliance Chairman Ed Knorr came up with the idea for the "Best Dam Lottery Game," whose proceeds would be dedicated to public and private well testing for senior citizens and low-income households in the

The already lucrative Lottery generated \$765 million for higher education and other institutions in



#### **AMERICAN** ROUNDUP

#### Restaurateur kidnapped

TX DALLAS — Days after Oscar J. Sanchez was kidnapped following a staged accident not far from two of the Dallas restaurants his family owns, police shifted from bringing him back alive to searching for his body.

After days of not hearing from his kidnappers, who had once demanded as much as \$3 million, they arrested one of two suspects as he tried to flee the country on an international flight out of Chicago Midway Airport. Another man is believed to be in Mexico.

Police said there could be a third, unknown suspect.

Jose Alberto Felix, 28, told investigators that a homicide had occurred at his Duncanville home. Police Lt. Jan Easterling said.

Police who searched Felix's home reported signs of a bloody struggle. Based on the interview with Felix, Easterling said, authorities believe Sanchez, 30, is dead.

#### Retro phones

OR EUGENE — Too young to remember those clunky cell phones of the early 1980s Look no more.

The Telephone Pioneer Museum has got the number of phone lovers and others who are just plain curi-



Just looking around A baby ebony langur rests Friday with its mother in JungleWorld, the Bronx Zoo's warm and lush tropical Asian rain forest in New York. The baby was born Jan. 12. The ebony langur is native to Indonesia.

The quirky muse um in Eugene has phones galore on display - Pink Princess phones old fashioned desk phones, even a 1980s cell phone about the

The museum houses a ad range of fascinating things, from replicas of Alexander Bell's harmonic telegraph transmitter to a switch-board used by the Shaniko Hotel in Eastern Oregon from 1907 to 1947

Wiechmann said kids who tour the museum want to know where the redial button is on the old phones. He said he holds up his index tells them, "There's your redial, right there

#### Motorcycle helmets

ME AUGUSTA — In Maine where there hasn't been a whisper of a helmet law for 15 years, a proposal to require the protective headgear has suddenly ridden into Augusta.

Maine had a helmet law for a de-

cade before lawmakers repealed it in 1977. Sponsors of bills to bring back the law returned faithfully to the State House for years following repeal, only to be met by deter mined bikers, clad in leathers, who said "no way" to the proposals. Now, a bill calling for helmet use

by all operators and passengers of motorcycles, on or off the highways, has appeared. It would make Maine the 21st state, along with the District of Columbia, that require helmet use by all motorcycle

drivers and their passengers.
The sponsor, Rep. Walter Wheeler, D-Kittery, said he sponsored the bill at the request of an 86-year-old constituent whose young relative was critically injured in a motorcycle accident.

#### Sex offender arrested

GA CARTERSVILLE - A convicted sex offender wanted for allegedly kidnapping an 11-year-old boy from his school in Florida was arrested, two days after the boy was found safe.

Frederick Fretz, 42, was arrested after police received a tip that a man resembling him was hitchhik-ing near Interstate 75 in Cartersville, about 40 miles north of Atlan-

Authorities in Marion County. Fla., said they had issued two warrants against Fretz, one for violation of parole and another for failure to register as a sex offender, a

There was also a federal warrant issued for kidnapping

#### Forehead for sale

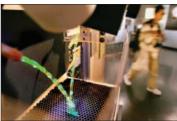
NE OMAHA — A Web-page designer who auctioned off the use of his forehead for advertising space is letting it go to his head. Andrew Fischer, 20, of Omaha. who put his forehead for sale on eBay as advertising space, re-ceived \$37,375 on Friday to advertise the snoring remedy SnoreStop. Fischer will display the Snore-Stop logo on his forehead for one

"I look forward to an enjoyable association with Andrew - a man who clearly has a head for business in every sense of the word, SnoreStop CEO Christian de Rivel said

"People will always comment on something out of the ordinary," Fis-cher said in his sales pitch. "People like weird."



Ken Carlisle uses a leaf blower Walking the line Saturday to clear debris from the Z&00 Railroad track at Ellen Trout Park in Lufkin, Texas.



Two streams of fluorescent-dved Piddling along water collide in an interactive display called "remarkable double piddler hydraulic happening machine" as a

visitor walks through the Harold Edgerton exhibit at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Museum, in Cambridge, Mass..



Gagged for life With the Capitol building in the background, pro-life activists Taryn Allin, from Washington, right, and Jesse Haugan, from Ottertail, Minn., fight the cold Saturday in Washington, D.C., to stage a silent protest at the Supreme Court.



Infermo drizzling A firefighter sprays water Sunday on a large pile of burning molded fiber apple and egg crates at the Keyes Fiber plant in Wenatchee, Wash. A storage building was damaged along with large piles of pallets and paper products in the three-alarm fire.



Too cold for man and beast Water vapor freezes around the muzzle of a horse during a workout Monday at the Saratoga Raceway in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The air temperature was -1.3.

Pole-ing station



Crystalline rose
A red rose is encrusted in a shield
of ice at Dewar Nurseries Inc. of
Florida in Apopka, Fla., on Sunday
as the overnight temperature
dropped to 29 degrees.



Andrew Moreno, 10, spends Sunday trying his fishing luck at Young Park in Las Cruces. N.M.

#### Shortage of nurses

PROVIDENCE — Hospitals say they're straining to find room for the sick in the middle of flu season as a nursing shortage continues.

Roger Williams Medical Center is housing patients in areas normally used for cancer treatment, marshaling administrators to help with non-clinical tasks and calling in staff to work extra shifts. Officials at Rhode Island Hospi-

tal said they're housing the overflow of patients in a former cancer ward in the vacant George Clinic.

#### Lunch by lobbyists

AR LITTLE ROCK — Most legislators here for their session receive \$110 a day from the state for food and lodging. But many eat at lobbyists' expense. About 50 legislators had lunch recently courtesy of the Arkansas Trial Lawress Association.

They were treated to beef brisket, chicken breasts, chocolate cake and strawberry cake. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, only Wisconsin places an outright ban on all food from lobbyists.

#### Paying higher taxes

MA BOSTON — The Boston Sunday Globe found that homeowners across the state will pay more this year in property taxes, with double-digit percentage increases in at least 40 cities and towns.

Tax bills are increasing because residential property values continue to rise while commercial values remain steady or decline.

Cuts in state aid and voter-approved overrides of property tax limits are other factors, the newsnaner reported.

#### Gang activity increasing

DALLAS — Police officials say gang problems that plagued the city a decade ago are on the rise again. Dallas police reported an 83 percent increase in gang-related arrests last year. Incidents at schools increased from 92 in 2000-2001 to 245 last school year.

Officials believe gang members returning to the streets from prison are contributing to the increase.

#### Firefighters killed

NY NEW YORK — Two veteran firefighters were killed and four others were seriously injured when they leaped from a fourth-floor window of a burning building in the Bronx. Later, a third firefighter died after fighting a basement fire in Brookly.

Lt. Curtis Meyran, 46, of Battalion 26, and Firefighter John
Bellew, 37, of Ladder 27, died after
battling the Bronx blaze on East
T8th Street in the Morris Heights
section, New York City Mayor
Michael Bloomberg said. Three
firefighters were in critical condition at St. Barnabas, and a fourth
was in serious condition at Jacobi
Medical Center.

The Brooklyn firefighter, Richard Sclafani, 37, died at a hospital after being injured at a two-alarm fire in the East New York section, Bloomberg said.

The six Bronx firefighters became trapped in the building while searching for people on the fourth floor, the mayor said.

"When the fire from the third floor broke through to the fourth, they were faced with a horrifying choice," he said. "They jumped out a fourth-floor window, knowing that they would be critically injured."

#### Search called off

OKLAHOMA CITY — The search for a missing single-engine aircraft was suspended more than a week after authorities found no trace of the plane or the 73-year-old Muskogee physician who was flying it, the Civil Air Patrol said.

The small aircraft piloted by Dr. Jack Nolen disappeared on Jan. 14 after it left Paris, Texas, on a flight to Shawnee. The search was focused on a heavily wooded area in Hughes County west of the McAlster Army Ammunition Plant where air traffic controllers last picked up a signal.

"We have followed up everything that we can possibly follow up," CAP Maj. Charles Newcomb with the will not reopen it unless something significant develops."

#### Frightening attack

NASHUA — A local man faces charges after police said he poured lighter fluid on a woman and threatened to light her on fire.

Brian Hayward, 18, is charged with reckless conduct and with assault after police said he punched the woman several times in the face and body.

Hayward also faces charges for failing to appear in court in a separate case. Police said he being held at the police department until he can be brought to Nashua District Court.

#### Military spending

COLORADO SPRINGS — This southern Colorado city has become the center of military spending in the state, officials

Four years ago, 44 percent of the defense spending in Colorado went to El Paso County. Now it has jumped to 61 percent for a total of \$1.5 billion in the last fiscal year. The county is home to five major military posts, including the Air Force Academy. The increased spending has helped the area bounce back from the technology sector bust of recent years.

#### Prostitution sting

NH NASHUA — A five-month investigation led to the arrest of a local man who allegedly ran a Web site offering to pay money for sexual favors.

Police arrested Terry Eddy, 49, after a sting operation and charged him with soliciting sex from an undercover officer. Police said a male officer communicated with Eddy through the Internet and set up a meeting.

Eddy also was charged with possession of a narcotic drug. He was released on bail and is scheduled to appear in Nashua District Court next month.

Stories and photos from wire services

# Cowboy in flip-flops

### Islander or country music star, Kenny Chesney learns it's best just to 'Be As You Are'

BY TERRY MORROW Scripps Howard News Service

Kenny Chesney is finding a new way to live

"In my life, everything that I do on the road is totally consumed by a time and schedule and a place to be and expectations," he says. "Bob Seger [sang the lyric], What to leave in and what to leave out." That's the way my life is." And there's no slowing down for him at the moment. "Be As You Are,

And there's no slowing down for him at the moment. "Be As You Are," his latest CD, arrived Tuesday. The TV special of the same name, showing his getaway life in the U.S. Virgin Islands and containing musical numbers from the CD, aired last week in the States on cable's CMT.

In recent years, the always-on-the-go Chesney has retreated to the islands to get his head together. He puts away his guitar, lives on a boat, and has what he describes as a stress-free sounding, idyllic life. This "vacation" for Chesney has insnired "Be As You Are."

tion" for Chesney has inspired "Be As You Are."
"My life is pretty hectic," he says. "My life even under normal circum stances is pretty busy out on the road. This special shows the contrast between my life on the road and my life in the islands.

"There's a big difference."

During an interview to talk about his new special, Chesney, 36, sinks

in the islands who

have sort of shown

to walk through the

world. All I worry

about when I am

down there is what

put in the CD

plauer. It's either

Jackson Browne or

know what I mean?

Kenny Chesney

into a leather couch. He's wearing a tight-fitting gray T-shirt, sandals, a cap, baggy pants and

ing a tignt-ntting gray 1-snirt, sandals, a cap, baggy pants and glasses. His guitar is close to his side, and he's smiling. Before he can even answer

the first question for an interview, a handler approaches with the word that he's due at another appointment soon.

Chesney isn't rattled by the

Chesney isn't rattled by the news he has to hurry along yet again.

He looks more like a man who is on wacation rather than the in-demand star he has become since of string of hits including "She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy," "The Good Stuff" and "How Forever Feels."

In the past decade, the Luttrell, Tenn., native has gone from being a B-list singer who played Dollywood to a genre-busting musical force of nature who is now tackling stadium tours

stadium tours.
"No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems," his 2002 release, sold 4 million copies, and he hangs

with Kid Rock and Jimmy Buffett.
With that kind of spotlight shining on him and his work, Chesney is fully aware he has to step it up a notch, make more TV appearances, do more radio interviews, play bigger venues and get more people in those seats. But despite the demands of such a meteoric rise, his nature is reflective

these days.
"I'm happy," he says. "I have met people in the islands who have sort of shown me a different way to walk through the world.

"All I worry about when I am down there is what CD I am going to put in the CD player. It's either Jackson Browne or Bob Marley, you know what I mean?"

Chesney, who grew up modestly, is candid about what celebrity on this newest scale is like. It opens doors, but it also brings new pressure and expectations.

expectations:

"It is on a boat two months out—"It is expectation."

The bear if I did not heve that, then I don't know how I db e able to handle all this. ... I am a very intense person on stage. I have to remember why I am there, what I am doing. You can spend all day backstage preparing for the show and lose sight of why you are doing this. Off stage, I am a very simple kind of guy. I live my life in fill-plong.

Don't think for a minute, though, that Chesney is whining about the trappings of fame. He isn't. In fact, he laughs when he talks about the hype, demands and the pressure, referring to it jokingly as "that jam I'm

But like anyone else who has stress because of a career, Chesney is finding he needs a balance to set everything in order.

"If all this [fame] had happened to me all at one time, I would not have been able to handle it the way I have," he says. "My life on the road has gotten bigger and bigger and bigger every single year."

He admits such celebrity can even be fearsome.
"It's scary," he says, "but I am kind of rolling into that, too."



BACA PRESS/KRT

Kenny Chesney performs in a concert on November 23 for the Oxygen network in New York City, Chesney's newest Cp, "Be As You Are?" was released Tuesday. CMT, a country music cable station, featured the singer in a special also called "Be As You Are," showing his getaway life in the U.S. Virgin Islands and containing musical numbers from the CD.

#### Owens almost not in ad

ABC's first choice for the "Monday Night Football" dropped towel episode wasn't **Terrell Owens** — it was announcer **John Madden**.

For reasons that are unclear, Madden couldn't find

the time to perform for the skit. Owens, the Philadelphia Eagles receiver, filled in for him in the sketch steamy that drew viewer protests and a network apology, ABC Entertainment President Stephen McPher-

son said Sunday



Sheridan

In the spoof that preceded the Nov. 15 football game, "Desperate Housewives" actress Nicollette Sheridan persuaded Owens to skip the game by dropping the towel wrapped around her and jumping into his arms.

#### Hoffman stays put

Dustin Hoffman flew into London, where he denied reports that he planned to settle in Britain permanent-

Hoffman arrived with his wife, Lisa, Sunday to promote his new film, 'Meet the Fockers,' the sequel to 2000's "Meet the Parents," in which he stars alongside Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller and Barbra Streisand.



Hoffman

some publicity for this movie in the States, and one of the things they asked was don't I have a place in London? ... That turned into: 'I'm moving

"I was doing

to get away from [President] Bush,'" Hoffman said.

He added: "That's silly. You can't go anywhere in the world to get away from Bush."

#### Best gift ever from Shaq

Shaquille O'Neal didn't have any trouble choosing a wedding gift for Donald Trump and Melania Knauss. "Phantom Rolls-Royce, a white

one," O'Neal said in Miami, referring to the massive luxury car that starts around \$325,000 in price.

around \$325,000 in price.

"It'll be parked at my house when
he wants to use it."

he wants to use it."
O'Neal said he and Trump have known each other for more than a decade.

#### Roles still hard to get

Winning the Oscar doesn't mean you're suddenly bombarded with offers for great movie mess says

Halle Berry.

Berry won the Oscar in 2002 for "Monster's Ball."
Her screen credits also include "Catwoman,"
"Gothika" and "Die Another

Day."
"The struggle for a woman of color to find good



color to find good material is still very present, and it's a struggle I fight every day," the actress, 36, told reporters Sunday.

Stories and photos from wire services

### YOUR MONEY

# Scam ads target Hispanics $|\operatorname{Draw}$ on hidden

### Trade group cracking down on phony credit cards

BY SANDRA HERNANDEZ

South Florida Sun-Sentine WESTON, Fla. - Elian Degen considered himself

a prudent man, indulging in few luxuries since arriving in Florida two years ago. But when Degen saw a Spanish-language television

ad promising a Pro-Line credit card to viewers without previous credit histories or Social Security numbers, the 52-year-old Venezuelan paid close attention

He dialed the telephone number on the screen and applied. But within minutes of hanging up the phone. Degen felt uneasy. He called back to cancel and his problems began: telephone callers threatened him with prosecution unless he sent them the \$299 processing fee. Like thousands of Hispanics across the United States, Degen found himself caught in a scam. Until recently, many of these frauds went unre-ported and undetected by the Federal Trade Commission despite boldly placed ads on Spanish-language television networks and radio stations.

But the Federal Trade Commission is cracking down on the growing number of schemes targeting Latinos, which range from advance fee cards to ineffective weight-loss programs. Last year, the FTC against 19 companies, with at least five filed in Florida and California including the Miami-based Pro-line company that nearly duped Degen, according to officials.

"This is really a recognition that we had to do some-thing because Hispanics make up a sizeable share of consumers and they are being targeted," said Laura Koss, the coordinator for the FTC's Hispanic initia-tive. "This is a recognition that Hispanics' buying power is growing and [of] the growth of the advertis

ing dollars put into the Hispanic market."

In addition to filing federal court complaints, the agency recently began running Spanish-language public service announcements, as well as working with community groups to warn consumers against such scams

The agency also has started monitoring Spanish broadcasts and filing complaints with a national database used by law enforcement, said Koss.

Dow Jones Industrials Dow Jones Transportation

259.08 6,211.33 1,150.74 Dow Jones Utilities NYSE Composite Amex Index

1,750.82 1,060.72 548.29 Nasdaq Composite S&P 500 S&P MidCap

515.90 10.268.52 Russell 2001 DI Wilshire

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)

Last Chg

24.26 35.26 3.10 15.29 13.92 48.36 20.77 SemiHTr DJIA Dia iShRs200 iShJapan SP Engy OilSvHT

-.0s -.22 +.13

Monday's Market Summary

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)

334.37 6,984.03

1.416.1 +1.60 -25.57 -4.12 -3.83

Last Chg

116.55 29.69 103.75 120.63 10.60 29.55 36.72 87.53

Such scams are not new and also exist in English but officials insist those targeting Hispanics in Spanish often show more hubris.

"Most of the English-language scams may advertise late at night on some small local cable station, but the calls we got indicated these Pro-Line ads and others are being run on major stations and networks," said Brodie White, of the Better Business Bureau's West Palm Beach County office. "I started to see an increase [in complaints] and realized these were old-school scams that were being directed at a new market."

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel was unable to reach the Spanish-language networks Telemundo or Univision for a comment.

White's office, which oversees complaints from Vero Beach, Fla., to Puerto Rico, logged 168 complaints and more than 1,000 inquiries against Pro-line Card and its affiliates, La Familia Group and Call Center Express. Officials said the affiliates ran the same advance-fee credit card scam. In the case filed in September against Pro-Lir

six individuals in federal court in Miami, the FTC alleged the company engaged in deceptive trade practices. Consumers were promised "unsecured major credit cards with credit limits ranging from \$2,000 to \$7,500" if they called a toll-free number.

Callers were then told they were approved and instructed to send money orders ranging from \$149 to \$299. A few days later, some people received a plas-tic card that resembled a credit card but allowed them only to make purchases out of a catalogue, according to court papers.

In addition, consumers were unable to get refunds An FTC survey released last year found Hispanics were nearly twice as likely as non-Hispanic whites to be victims of fraud. While 6 percent of the whites had been defrauded, 12 percent of the Hispanics had been bilked. While the study offered no explanation, some experts suggest immigration status and language may spur con artists to focus on

-3.84 -9.04

-7.22 -4.36

Vol (00) Last Chg

+26 -43 -26 +.02 -.77 -.08 -.42 -.07 -.10

-1.26 -.35 -.60 -7.66 -3.97 -5.04 -6.74 +.73 +4.49

-1.07

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 or I

# visual features

Ack lim

O. When I teach my 100-plus classes a year, I make notes and create charts on a flip chart. But that doesn't work for large groups who can't see from the back, so I blank my laptop screen ("B" in PowerPoint) and use an overhead projector.

But switching back and forth is a pain. Are there any gizmos I can plug into my ThinkPad to draw and make not

— Gary Zeune @bigfoot.com A. Microsoft's engineers built a whiteboard feature to per

mit drawn annotations into a running Power-Point presentation, and then they tried to cover up its existence.

Fire up one of your presentations; while it is run-ning, tap the W key, which will present a totally white screen. Now, right-click on the screen and you'll get a menu that lets you select a type of drawing instrument and color. You can use the mouse to draw stuff on the screen.

As your question anticipates, you can get seriously artsy if you connect an input tablet to serve in place of a conventional mouse.

These USB tablets allow a user to draw, write in cursive and paint on screen. Of course, all this drawing and writing appears on your project slide if you're using the whiteboard in PowerPoint.

You can get more details here: www.presentersuniversity.com/ visuals Whiteboard.php. Q. A friend's apartment recent-

ly was broken into, and his lanton was stolen. I realized how much I have stored on an attractive piece of electronic equipment.

If someone walked away with my laptop, they would have everything. How can I protect my information stored on my laptop?

- Tom Connolly @sbcglobal.net

Watch out, because this whole area of data encryption can be like treading on thin ice with polar bear. Computer technology lets us reduce data into encrypted form so powerful that even banks of supercomputers running around the clock can't crack them. Forget the password and you are finger food for the polar bears.

Far too many people sharing concern have hard-drive encryption schemes only to forget or jumble their pass-

words and wind up getting locked out of their own data. Many found their computer unusable in the process because it needed a password to start up. Beyond human memory issues, trusting anything as unstable as a Windows-based computer with software that can encrypt data beyond the Pentagon's reach is ill-ad-

vised Most agree that the best solution is to use some kind of software that creates a special and heavily

encrypted folder that holds all sensitive stuff but doesn't cloak the en-tire machine. Among the most popular of these programs is the \$90 BestCrypt program from Jetico Inc. With the software running, your computer's operating system and anything you care to keep pub-lic remains accessible, while the secret stuff is locked with lead-

ing-edge encryption.

Many of us can get by using simpler techniques. Consider getting software like WinZip that includes near-Pentagon-proof encryption. as well as the ability to compress files to save drive space. Try a trial download at WinZip.com.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at jcoates@tribunc.com or via snail mail at the Chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago II. 60611. Questions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at www.chicagotribune.com/askjim.

#### **EXCHANGE RATES**

British pound	
Japanese yen (Jan. 26)	10
South Korean won (Jan. 25)	1.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37
Canada (Dollar)	1.2
Denmark (Krone)	
Egypt (Pound)	5.8
EuroS1.	3048/0.7
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7
Hungary (Forint)	18
Iceland (Krona)	62
Israel (Shekel)	4.3
Japan (Yen)	10
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.29
Norway (Krone)	
Norway (Krone) Philippines (Peso)	5
Saudi Arabia (Rival)	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.0
South Korea (Won)	1.03
Switzerland (Franc)	
Thailand (Baht)	3
Turkey (New Lira)	1.3
(Military exchange rates	are th
available to customers at mil	itary ba
ing facilities in the country of	of Issua
for Japan, South Korea, Ger	rmany.
Notherlands and the United	Kingo

Netherlands and the United Kingdom For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking licality. Commercial rates are inhaltary banking licality. Commercial rates are inhaltary banking currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-dollars-to-pound. PRECIOUS METALS

\$423.10

INTEREST RATES

me rate ...... count rate ..... leral funds market rate 

# **Pents and Sensibility** Money tip of the day

# E-filing is free and fast

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK - Filing your taxes via the Internet just got a little easier. The IRS has made 15 free tax-preparation programs available to consumers through its Free File site.

Currently, three of the pro grams — eSmart Tax, TurboTax for the Web and TaxAct.com offer free filing for all taxpayers, without restrictions. Receiving free services from any of the oth ers requires that one meet eligibility requirements such as age. home state or income.

For these programs, you may need to provide the following information to determine if you qualify for free services: your age (and your spouse's age, if applicable), adjusted gross income, state of residence, W-2, your eligibility to file under the 1040EZ or 1040A, your eligibility for an earned income tax credit, and military status. The IRS does not endorse any specific program; however, it has tested each for security and accuracy.

If you choose to e-file, look beyond how much a service costs. If you already use money-management software, you might try to find a Free File program that will allow you to use those data. For file-for-free programs, visit www.irs.gov. If you're not sure which program best fits your eligibility, visit the Free File site: http://www.irs.gov/efile/article/ 0,,id118986,00.html

#### Alliant Technos Armor Holdings Boeing Computer Sciences Engineered Sup Sy: -4.1 -9.5 -5.8 -5.4 General Dynamic General Electric 42.00 54.60 35.17 +7.0 -11.6 -.7 -6.5 -1.9 -5.6 -6.0 +5.8 -7.8 -7.8 -7.0 -4.2 .40 1.00 .92 .80 .66 68.47 54.47 51.29 36.50 52.40 56.35 20.77 68.61

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS KEY DEFENSE STOCKS YTD DIV PE Last Chg %Chg Chg. 64.23 40.78 49.64 51.00 55.79 99.00 35.26 -1.16 -1.29 -43 -50 +.18 -1.51 +.13 Fidelity Invest: GroIn Fidelity Invest: GroCo 36.95 51.95 -.68 Fidelity Intests GroCo
Amer Century Intro Ultra
Fidelity Spartan: Eqidit
Fidelity Spartan: Eqidit
Putnam Funda A: Grinta p
Fidelity Intests: A Mgr
Fidelity Intests: A Mgr
Fidelity Intests: USBI
Fidelity Intests: USBI
Fidelity Intests: USBI
Fidelity Advisor Ti-Eqini
Fidelity Fidelity Fidelity
Fidelity Fidelity
Fidelity Fidelity
Fidelity Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fidelity
Fide 27.95 41.18 18.72 15.91 32.42 21.65 11.17 -.24 -.15 -.03 -.03 -.27 -.18 -5.3 -3.9 -3.5 -1.9 -5.1 -5.2 -5.3 -3.6 -3.5 -3.6 -3.5 -3.6 -3.5 -4.7 -7.9 +.6 -3.3 -3.3 33.81 29.11 21.00 8.12 12.31 12.42 26.21 42.79 16.97 14.64 13.02 Merrill Lynch I: BalCapl
Scudder Funds S: Intl FdS
Fidelity Advisor T: Ovrsea
Lord Abbett A: DevGA n udder Funds S: Income S x errill Lynch I: USGvtMto



#### **EUROPEAN FORECAST**

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain and snowshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Thursday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 30s to upper 40s. Thursday lows in the 30s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s. Thursday lows in the upper 20s.

France: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain and snowshowers. Highs in the lower 30s to lower 40s. Thursday lows in the upper 20s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s. Thursday lows in the 20°

Southern Germany: Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the 20s. Thursday lows in the upper teens to

Hungary: Cloudy with snowshowe Highs in the lower 30s. Thursday lows in the lower teens.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Thursday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

rainshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 40s. Thursday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

Kosovo: Cloudy with snowshowers Highs in the lower 30s. Thursday lows in the mid 20s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the 30s. Thursday lows in the lower 20s to lower 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 50s in the south, upper 30s to lower 40s in the north. Thursday lows in the mid 30s to lower 40s in the south, upper teens to upper 20s in the north.

Turkey: Partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 40s to upper 50s. Thursday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s, except mid to

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

# SUN & MOON

Full moon 24 Feb 05

New moon. 8 Feb 05

#### TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

74 58 33

Tel Aviv

73/50

74/54

Hi Lo Oti 40 PCIsh 49 PCIsh 33 R3in 48 R3in 73 CIsh 31 CIsh 31 CIsh 44 PCIsh 44 PCIsh 44 PCIsh 58 PCIsh 58 PCIsh 58 PCIsh 58 PCIsh 58 PCIsh 54 PCIsh 56 PCIsh 57 PCIsh 58 PCIsh 13 4 22 67 53 34 18 40 50 35 23 57 31 52 1 PCIdy PCidy Snow Snow Cidy PCidy PCidy Cidy 35 20 41 80 77 60 37 72 69 37 39 70 55 74 25 59 41 34 61 62 43 59 63 44 54 60 76 64 25 74 69 30 55 15 14 31 23 66 76 60 58 59 83 51 12 65 53 72 26 21 30 45 72 70 30 43 63 53 Snow POidy P 40 11 237 12 34 21 32 38 20 49 19 50 29 38 Snow Cidy Snow Cidy PCidy Cidy PCidy Norfolk, Va. North Platt Oklahoma Omaha PCIdy Cidy Cidy Cidy Rain Rain Cidy Snow Cidy Key West Knowlie Lake Cha Larsing 43 21 18 36 51 23 36 41 8 38 35 57 41 13 4 52 43 1 31 8 13 62 2 -12 Snow Rain Cldy Cldy Snow 42 4 61 31 57 47 48 56 47 22 57 Cld Snow Snow Clay Clay Clay PClay PClay PClay -16 25 45 25 36 34 28 13 17 34 10 42 28 33 5 28 -1 34 62 67 46 75 49 58 26 38 43 54 20 25 56 42 81 53 56 PCId Cld Cld Cld Show PCldy Rain PCldy Cli

57/37

47/31

pit City

As of poon, Eastern U.S. time

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

85/67



Scheduled to ETS or PCS

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



### Horoscope

Mercury and stern Saturn are in opposition, highlighting the awareness and power of our words. Wield them in the full knowledge that they have the power to **Holiday Mathis** teach, wound, inspire and activate. Also, be aware enough to say what you really mean because the meaning comes across regardless. You may as

#### well be in control of your TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

message

(January 26). Your support team rallies around you this year! People you didn't even know were on your side add value to your days. In the next three months, presume innocence of your fellow man, and your way is made easy. For many of you, a new job is featured in May. Something you saved for is yours in June. Taurus and Virgo are lucky for love.

#### ARIES (March 21-April 19). Poor everybody else. If they are

competing with you now, they should prepare to lose. You're really thinking and grooving. If it can be done cheaper, safer or faster, you'll find a way

#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Roles are carefully delineated. The

better you understand the power structure at work, the more effective you'll be. Know to whom you should be talking and to whom you should be listening.

#### GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Unless you're looking at all the possibilities, there's a good chance vou're running on autopilot, "If" is in the middle of the word "life." Today, you can expand your life by asking vourself, "What if?

#### CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Associate with people who have the potential to enlarge your mind real poet-warrior types. Otherwise, it's difficult to see the apportunity that's staring you in the face this afternoon

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). We are an interesting species, aren't we? Capable of such great feats and

such colossal mistakes. Don't worry or try to hide your mess now. Your human foibles make you more loveable

#### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've got a mind for numbers and

will come up with brilliant ways to add more zeros to your income. Tonight, you must consider wheth er you'd rather be popular or be true to your authentic self

#### LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). You're reasonable, as usual, but a relative is stubborn and slightly insane. Fighting this person is silly. Let him or her have the day

When people stop resisting this person's ideas, he or she will settle down

#### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's official: An ex-love is no longer lost in some distant part of the universe. He or she is back, either in your mind or in your space. You'll have to deal with the reasons the relationship didn't work out in the

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The biggest issue is how you're going to make more money in less time. It's not so much about being efficient as it is about choosing projects that compel you so you

first place

#### lose track of time altogether. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). It is important to understand everyone else's agenda. An apology could be the only thing standing between you and a goal. Don't be too proud to say that you were wrong. A Leo loves you.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

History repeating itself is the theme. but it doesn't have to. Pat yourself on the back for the emotional muscle tone you've obviously developed since last time. You're not going to make the same mistakes twice

#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Public expectations figure strongly

into your activities. It's tempting to do what you think will bring you praise. Be careful that you're not portraying a stereotype of what you believe you should be

Creators Syndicate

#### **Peanuts**









Worse

5



APRIL BECKY IS HANDS ON" ... SHE'S A "GIG"! BHE'S "ROADSIDE," MAN !)

YOU MEAN SHE'S

YEAH... AN'ONCE YOU'VE "BEEN THERE" YOU AIN'T COMIN' BACK!



#### **Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13				П	14			l
15	1	1		16			t	17			t	t
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	Т	32	t	T	T
33				34	T			35		36	T	T
37	T	T	38		39		T	T	40		T	
41	T	T	İ	42		43	T	T	T			
			44	t	45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52		t		53	54			55	T	T
56					57	T	T		П	58	T	T
59	T	T	T		60	T	T	T		61	T	T

#### Across 1 That guy

- 4 Prima donna 8 Aware of
- 12 Raw mineral
- 13 Bucks' mates
- 14 "OK"
- 15 Zero-star
- review
- 16 Trendy 18 Peer
- 20 Nevertheless
- 21 Applaud 24 Crowbar
- 28 Guaranteed
- 32 Start over
- 33 Part of DJIA
- the line
- 36 Self
- 37 Elevator name 39 Owing
- 41 By the book
- 43 Comet feature
- 44 Driver's license
- 46 Dracula's waking
- 50 Glenn Miller
- song
- 55 Scull tool
- 56 2000 movie,
- "Drowning -- " 57 German car
- 58 Falsehood
- 59 Bohemian
- 60 Unescorted 61 Saute

#### Down 1 Clinton's hometown

- 2 OPEC member
- 3 Carte

7 Wan

9 Fresh

10 Mai —

8 Pearl's home

11 Resistance unit

19 Essen expletive

22 Hillside shelter

Gainsborough

26 Move gradually

17 Slithery one

23 Emulate

25 Swerve

27 Cross

- 4 Taught by rote
- 38 Glide 5 Charged bit 6 Dr. Dolittle, e.g.
- 31 "- life!" 35 Big dance party 40 Actor Wallach
  - 42 Gypsy Rose -

28 "American ---"

29 Memorandum

: nest

30 Brick · house · · -

- 45 Grand opening
- day? 47 "A good walk spoiled," said
- Twain
- 48 "Aquarius" show 49 Deuce heater
- 50 "- Little Teapot"
- 51 Neither mate
- 52 Stick with a kick 53 Chic no more
- 54 Harem room

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle











DIE!!!



USLIBA F RSJ Y S NJR

NSFY, OSJAC RSJ USDTKCBZ

TFKAT IKYUO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY ADVICE: DON'T HOLD LOOSE CHANGE AROUND VENDING MACHINES. THEY ARE COINIVOROUS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals T

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

### **Don't give in to sexual pressures**

Dear Abby: I have been going out with "Elijah" for a year and a half I love him but sometimes he tries to get me to do things I really don't want to do sexually. I don't know how to tell him no because I don't want him to hate me. I feel pressured

every time I'm with him, and sometimes I'm scared to be alone with him. What should I do? I need help.

- Worried Girlfriend

in N.C. Dear Girlfriend: The most difficult word to say is also one of the short-est. It's "no." And yet the inability to say that simple word can complicate a person's life in ways you can't imagine.

If Elijah is pressuring you to do things you're not ready for, then as much as you love him, he is proving that he doesn't love you If he would "hate" you for saying no, then he didn't love you to begin with - you are being used.

Dear Annie: My

be hypocritical to sit

did, however, find it

luncheon afterward

and said, "Since your

name isn't in our Christ

mas-gift drawing should

husband's sister boycott-

ed my son's baptism because she said it would

through a church service

acceptable to attend the

she did not believe in. She

Last month, I called her

we still include your boyfriend?"

and I reminded her that she had

declared herself to be an atheist

winter solstice, so my name

should be in the drawing."

She replied, "Well, I celebrate the

How can I get across to her that

these events aren't something you

participate in only when it's conve-

nient? If I had gotten her name in

cause, after all, I don't celebrate

Dear Plenty Peeved: Now,

- Plenty Peeved

Sister-in-Law

the drawing. I would not have purchased anything for her be

the winter solstice.

She asked why she was excluded.

If you allow it to continue. it will make you feel ashamed and guilty, which can cause you problems in the future.

Please consider what I have said and strictly limit the time you spend alone with him. It's called avoiding temptation.

Dear Abby Dear Abby: My

husband, "Len," is a good person, but he never shows me any affection. Over the past three years, we might have kissed only six times

I recently learned that Len has a stash of what he calls "glamour shots" of women. I call them porno. Len insists

that it's normal for men to look at not wanting to be with me sexual-

I am not unattractive. I have tried everything to interest him. He promises to change because

es. We have tried counseling - it didn't help.

Abby, I love my husband, but I am very lonely. I would do anything to please him, but he'd rather fantasize over an image on paper than be with me. I realize that sex isn't everything, but what about me and my needs? I work, take care of the kids, cook — everything. I feel like his roommate.

— Wants a Husband Dear Wants a Husband: When a spouse substitutes "glamoui

shots" for a sex life with his partner, it's time to admit there is a serious problem. However, nothing will change until your husband faces it and decides to do something about it. He could be addicted to porn. He may have erectile dysfunction. The place to start is at his doctor's office with a complete physical examination.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069, Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

Unscramble these four Jumbles one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words.



REGEME

WUCREF

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WHY HE DIDN'T

JOIN THE GLACIER

EXPEDITION.

Ans: HE GOT Yesterday's Jumbles: ROBOT LIGHT Answer:

(Answers tomorrow) PODILIM GLOOMY What the fast-talking mechanic seemed to be

**Family Circus** 

# 1-26 © 2005 Bill Kesne, Inc. Dist. by King Features Sync www.familycircus.com

A "MOTOR" MOUTH

"What I meant to say was, 'The world has gone to HEAVEN in a handbasket!

Annie's Mailbox

these kinds of things. We have had many fights over it and his

he loves me, but nothing chang-

Tolerance cure for family dispute

now, girls. This situa-tion calls for tolerance. Wrong, After a tirade about me being a dirty old man, she ran not retaliation. Your the prescription through the sister-in-law has choshredder. All I wanted was to be able to sen not to participate make love to my wife. I assumed in the religious aspect of these occasions, but that after 45 years of marriage, she also wanted this. To discover she still would like to I was wrong was quite a letdown.

he included in the family celebrations. We have not made love since. I also have not been back to my which may involve doctor because I don't want to be embarrassed if he asks how the luncheons and gift-exchanges. We assume Viagra is working out. I guess I she reciprocates. simply will have to live a life You can decide to let devoid of making love.

her beliefs come between you or you can simply accept this part of her makeup and find other common ground.

Dear Annie: The letter from the woman who raised all kinds of Cain because her husband's doctor gave him a prescription for Viagra without her input

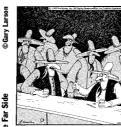
really hit home with me. Two years ago, I came home

from my annual checkup with a script for Viagra. I proudly showed it to my wife, thinking she would be as happy as I was

\_\_ R Dear R.: We're sorry to hear about your lack of intimacy, but we are more concerned that you haven't been back to your doctor. Don't let your embarrassment prevent you from getting a checkup. Your doctor has heard it all, including this one. He may even have some suggestions for you. Annie's Malibox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marry Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox/ecomeast.net, or write to: Annie's Malibox, c/o Creators Syndi-date, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.



LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT TILL SPRING TO FIND THAT BONE YOU BURIED, BOY



Saaaaaay, aren't you a stranger in these parts? Well, I don't take candy from strangers."



#### **SCOREBOARD**

#### AFN TV & Radio

#### Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Georgia at Florida (did). AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—Tennis: Australian Open: Men's and women's quarterfinals AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—NBA: Seattle at L.A. Lakers (dld). AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—Motorcycle racing: THQ World Supercross GP (Anaheim) (dld).

#### Thursday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Marquette at Louisville. AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.—College basketball:

AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.—College basketball: Notre Dame at Villanova. 3 a.m.—College basketball: Maryland at Duke. AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m.—Tennis: Australian Open women's semifinals. AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers (did).

L.A. Clippers (did).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—College basketball:
Marquette at Louisville (did).

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—College basketball:
Maryland at bulse (did).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—Tennis: Australian
Open men's semifinal No. 1 (did).

All times are Central European Time; dld in-dicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

#### College basketball

#### AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 23, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

Becord   Pis   Pis   Becord   Pis   Becord   Pis   Becord   Pis   Becord   Pis   Pis   Becord   Pis   Pis				
	1. Illinois (71) 2. Davie (1) 3. North Carolina 4. Syracuse est 6. Ayracuse es	19-0 15-2 19-1 16-2 16-1 16-2 16-3 15-3 12-3 11-4 13-3 11-3 11-3 11-3 11-4 16-3	1,799 1,704 1,574 1,530 1,521 1,425 1,356 1,322 1,289 1,123 1,030 706 6693 684 534 473 460 435 411 405 337 259 117	111111111111111111111111111111111111111
	Others receiving votes: \	/illanova	177, W	īκ

Others receiving votes: VIII. 70 vi. 71, Wichlast. 40, Charlotte 23, 01d Domillon 21, Parickie 19, UTEP 18, Texas Tech 15, Vermont 12, Texas A&M 10, Florida 8, Bucknell 6, George Washington 6, Marquette 6, Maryland 6, S. Illinois 6, George ctwom, 5, Weda 4, Stanford 3, DePaul 2, Worle Dame 2, Oregon 2, St. Mary's, Cal. 2, Milamil 2,

#### USA Today/ESPN Top 25

The top 25 teams in the USA Today-ESPN men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 23, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote, through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.

1. Illinois (31)	19-0	775	1
2. Duke	15-0	737	4
3. North Carolina	16-2	667	6
4. Syracuse	19-1	656	7
5. Wake Forest	16-2	636	3
6. Kentucky	14-2	594	8
7. Kansas	14-1	592	2
8. Boston College	16-0	584	9
9. Oklahoma State	16-0 14-2	546	5
10. Washington	16-2	492	10
11. Arizona	16-3	443	12
12. Louisville	16-3		
13. Michigan State	12-3	362	16
13. Texas	14-4	362	11
15. Oklahoma	15-2	343	21
16. Connecticut	11-4	276	13
17. Alabama	15-3	272	
	13-3		
19. Wisconsin	13-3	247	23
20. Cincinnati	15-3	208	18
21. Georgia Tech	11-5	144	15
22. Mississippi State	16-4	107	19
23. Gonzaga	14-4	104	20
24, Iowa	14-4	93	24
25. Utah	16-3	40	NR
Others receiving votes: Pa	cific 1	4: CI	nar
lotte 13: Wichita State 12: Sa	int M	arv's	10
Villanova 10: North Carolina	State	8: No	otre
Dama 8: Tayas A&M 8: Tayas 7			

Dame 8; Texas A&M 8; Texas Tech 6; Nevada 5; Georgetown 4; Southern Illinois 4; New Mexico 3; Texas-El Paso 3; Air Force 2; George Washington 2; UAB 1; DePaul 1; Flori-da 1; Old Dominion 1; Oregon 1; West Virgin-la 1

#### AP Men's Top 25 schedule

AP Men's Top 25 schedule

No. Illinois at No. 18 Wisconsin
No. 1 Illinois at No. 18 Wisconsin
No. 1 Illinois at No. 18 Wisconsin
No. 16 Wisconsin
No. 16 Wisconsin
No. 16 Wisconsin
No. 16 Wisconsin
No. 2 Duke vs. Maryland
No. 12 Culsiville vs. Marquette
No. 14 Alabama at Auburn
No. 2 Howas Thompton
No. 10 Washington at No. 11 Arzona

No. 15 Michigan State vs. Michigan No. 21 Cincinnati at South Florida Friday's games

No. 21 cincinnati at south Florida Finday's games No. 3 memorial substitution of the Studies of the No. 4 memorial of the Studies of the Studies of the No. 4 Syracuse at No. 20 Pitsburgh No. 5 Wake Forest vs. Milami No. 6 Kansas vs. No. 16 Texas No. 7 Kentucky at Arkansas No. 8 Boston College vs. Georgetown No. 8 Boston College vs. Georgetown No. 8 Boston College vs. Georgetown No. 8 Boston College vs. Such and the Work of the Studies of

Arena No. 13 Oklahoma at Iowa State

No. 3 Oklahoma at lowa State No. 14 Alabama, Sceorgia No. 15 Michigan State vs. Goldand, Mich. No. 17 Gonzaga vs. Fertland No. 12 Gonzaga vs. Fertland No. 22 Circinimati vs. Houston No. 22 House, Spidana at LGJ No. 24 Mississippi State at LGJ No. 25 Mississippi State at LGJ No. 24 Mississippi State at LGJ No. 25 Mississippi State at LGJ No. 20 LGG vs. Virginia Tech No. 9 Oklahoma State at Colorado No. 19 Washington at Arizona State No. 19 Connecticul at Notre Dame No. 25 Gornjat Fech at Maryland

#### Monday's men's scores

Adelphi 72, Queens, N.Y. 69, OT Alderson-Broaddus 84, WVU Tech 74 Bethany, W.Va. 120, Westminster, Pa. 109 Bloomsburn 58, Chauron: EE Alderson-Bründdus SA, WUT Tech 74
Berhamy, Wa. 12, Westminster, Pa. 109
Echany, Wa. 12, Westminster, Pa. 109
Calbrin Is S, Misericordia 70
College of N. 16, William Paterson 58
College of N. 16, William Paterson 58
College of N. 16, William Paterson 58
Echan S, Westmington 8, Jefferson 54
Gwyned-S-Mercy TS, Arcadia 69
Fore City GT, Westmington 8, Jefferson 54
Gwyned-S-Mercy TS, Arcadia 69
Fore S, William S, William S, Westmington 8, Jefferson 54
Fore S, William S, Willi

lona SB, Loyde M, Mar. Telemo B6
McGar Lone SB, Centerum N, Los SB, Control SB, Mourt SL, Medgar Loves SB, Centerum N, LS, SB, Mourt SL, Medgar Loves SB, Centerum N, LS, SB, Philadelphia S2, Molloy 68
Philadelphia S2, Molloy 68
Philadelphia S2, Molloy 68
Robert Morris GS, Wagner ST, SB, SB, Marris CB, SB, Marris CB, SB, Magner ST, SB, SB, Marris CB, Magner ST, SB, SB, Magner ST, SB, Magner ST, SB, SB, Magner ST, SB, SB, Magner ST, Magner SB, Magner S

Schelber S. G. Sienel S. Southampton 72 Synacuse 86, Robert S. G. Sienel S. Southampton 72 Synacuse 86, Robert S. H. Southampton 72 Synacuse 86, Robert S. H. Southampton 81, Robert S. Southampton 82, Robert S. Southampton 82, Robert S. Southampton 82, Robert S. Southampton 82, Robert S. Southampton 83, 
UKIANOMA 67, Öklahoma St. 57 Prairie View 63, Ark.-Pine Bluff 58 Texas-Tyler 75, Texas-Dallas 61 W. Texas A&M 66, E. New Mexico 59 FAR WEST BYU 68, New Mexico 53

San Diego St. 84, Colorado St. 77 UC Irvine 71, UC Davis 64 UNLV 79, Wyoming 67 Utah 63, Air Force 51

#### AP Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' mome's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 23, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's reprine:

anking:		
	Record Pts Pvs	
1. Duke (31)	18-1 1.107 1	
2. LSU (14)	18-1 1.093 2	
3. Ohio St.	19-2 1.026 3	
4. Stanford	17-2 983 5	
5. Tennessee	14-3 941 7	
6. Notre Dame	16-3 834 11	
7. Baylor	13-3 812 4	
8. Rutgers	13-4 783 6	
9. Connecticut	12-4 726 13	
IO. Minnesota	16-3 725 12	
11 Michigan Ct	16-3 688 8	
II. Michigan St. IZ. North Carolina	14-3 611 9	
A Roston College	13-2 524 14	
IS Toyas	10-6 499 15	
E Vancar St	14-3 417 20	
17 NoDaul	15-3 394 18	
IR Inwa St	15-1 393 19	
19 Geomia	15-5 252 21	
0 Maryland	13-4 225 16	
1 Florida St	17-2 215 -	
22 Ponn St	12-6 186 -	
13. Texas Tech 14. Boston College 15. Texas 16. Kansas St. 17. DePaul 18. Iowa St. 19. Georgia 20. Maryland 11. Florida St. 12. Penn St. 13. Vanderbilt	13-5 147 17	
4. Temple	15-3 85 -	
5. N.C. State	15-4 63 -	
Others receiving votes	: Virginia Tech 62.	
New Mexico 56, Iowa 53,	Purdue 40. Arizona	
st. 36. WisGreen Bay 32.	Arizona 11. Louisi-	

St. 36, Wis.-Green Bay 32, Arizona 11, Louisi ana Tech 10, Gonzaga 8, UCLA 8, Louisville 6 Southern Cal 5, Houston 4, Oklahoma 4, Vir-oinia 2, Richmond 1.

#### AP Women's Top 25 schedule

AP Women's Top 25 schedule

Fuseday's games

No. 16 Kansas State vs. No. 18 lows State

No. 16 Kansas State vs. No. 18 lows State

No. 16 Kansas State vs. No. 18 lows State

No. 7 Baylor vs. Texas A&M

No. 7 Baylor vs. Texas A&M

No. 7 Baylor vs. Texas A&M

No. 10 March of the Person

No. 10 March of the Person

No. 10 March of the Person

No. 10 March of the Very Person

No. 10 March of the V

No. 4 Star Grant Page Page No. 1 Star Control College Page 1 Star College Page No. 1 8 Discont College Page 1 Star College Page No. 1 8 Discont College Page 1 Star College Page No. 2 Mary Grant Page 1 Star College Page 1 S

No. 24 Temple vs. Xavier

Monday's Games

No. 5 Tennessee vs. No. 19 Georgia
No. 21 Florida State vs. Virginia

#### Monday's women's scores

Monday's women's scores

Adejah 84, Queens Coll. 17.

Adejah 84, Anniel 18.

A

Pitt.-Johnstown 87, West Liberty 63
Southampton 72, 92. Thomas Aguinas 54
St. Franks, 72, 82. Thomas Aguinas 54
St. Franks, 72, 82. Savene Heart 69
St. Franks, 72, 82. Savene Heart 69
Surguesham 72, 12, tyourning 69
Washington 6, Jeffreyson 70, Groye City 64
Mashington 6, Jeffreyson 70, Saven 10, 10
Jeff 8, 10, Saven Heart 10, 10
Jeff 8, 10, Saven 10, 10
Jeff 8, 10, Christian Brothers 9, 3
Jeffreyson 70, Coll of Charleston 54
Jeffrey

#### Tennis

#### Australian Open

Tuesday At Melbourne Park

Tuesday

Al Misheburne Park

Pures \$4.5 million (trand Stam)

Surface bard-outdoor

John Stamp (State State 
Scott Draper second Bund to the Australia, def. Nesig Zimonii, serbis-Montenegro, and Elena Likhovtsevá (b. Russia, 6-5, 6-4).

O. Australia, ed. Marian Hodo, Angertina, and Maria Vento-Kabchi, Venezuela, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1, 7-5, 6-1, 7-6 (b.).

#### Pro football

#### NFL playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 8 St. Louis 27, Seattle 20 N.Y. Jets 20, San Diego 17, OT Sunday, Jan. 9 Indianapolis 49, Denver 24 Minnesota 31, Green Bay 17 Divisional Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 15 Pittsburgh 20, N. Deles 37, OT Atlanta 47, St. Opiday, Jan. 16 Sunday, Jan. 16

Atlanta 47, St. Louis 17 Sunday, Jan. 16 Philadelphia 27, Minnesota 14 Philadelphia 27, Minnesota 14 New England 20, Indianapolis 3 Conference Championa Sunday, Jan. 23 Philadelphia 27, Atlanta 10 New England 41, Pittsburgh 27 Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6 Jacksonville, Fla. Philadelphia vs. New England

#### College hockey

#### NCAA Division I poll

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Top teams in the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey poll, com-piled by U.S. College Hockey Online, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 23, points, and previous rank-

my.	B	na-	n.
1. Boston College (29) 2. Colorado College (10) 3. Wisconsin (1) 4. Michigan 5. Denver 5. New Hampshire	Record 15- 3-3 20- 4-2 19- 6-1 19- 6-1 16- 6-1 16- 5-2	490 470 439 380	P۱
7. Minnesota B. Cornell 9. Colgate	18- 9-0 13- 4-2 18- 6-0	361 341 254	
10. Ohio State 11. Harvard	16- 7-3 10- 5-2	245 149	1
12. North Dakota 13. MassLowell 14. Boston University	14-10-2 14- 5-3 13-10-1	126	1
15. Maine Others receiving votes: \	13- 8-5 /ermont 3	72 2. No	N
ern Michigan 29, Dartmour			

2, Michigan 29, Dartmouth 8, Bemidji State 2, Michigan State 1, Michigan Tech 1, Nebras ka-Omaha 1.

#### Monday's scores

EAST ew Hampshire 2, Boston College 2, tie ortheastern 4, Merrimack 3

#### Deals

### Monday's transactions

BASEBALL American League CLEVELAND INDIANS—Agreed vith RHP Jake Westbrook on a two

TARPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Sent C Pete Laforest outright to Durham of the IL Agreed to terms with 0 F.Oris Singleton on a minor league contract.

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Agreed to terms with 15 rony clark on a one-year contract.

ract.

CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with
NF Rich Aurilia on a minor league contract.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Agreed to terms
with RHP Brad Penny on a one-year con-

tract.

NEW YORK METS—Named Gary Carter
manager of the Gulf Coast League Mets.

PITISBURGH PIRATES—Agreed to terms
with OF INF-OF Rob Mackowiak on a
one-year contract and OF Ben Grieve on a
minor league contract.

minor league confirme on sent sirleve on a maintenance of the confirment of the conf om the injured list.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
GREEN BAY PACKERS—Named Jim Bates

lefensive coordinator. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Waived DB Ant-NEW YORK JETS—Signed WR Terrance tubbs, RB Little John Flowers and CB Andrew Davison to future contracts.

ST. LOUIS RAMS—Named Kurt Schottenheimer secondary coach.

MOTORSPORTS
CHAMP CAR WORLD SERIES—Named Tony

COLLEGE
ARIZONA—Named Josh Heupel tight ends

Oct.

Agreed to terms with D C.J. Brown.

COLLEGE

ARIZONA—Named Josh Heupel tight ends

Och.

Och

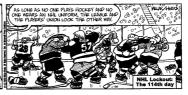
coach.
AUGUSTANA, ILL.—Named Stacey Ruff
vomen's volleyball coach.
DAYTON—Named Dennis Currier men's soccer coach.

NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS—Named Santos
Carrillo interim football coach.

PITTSBURGH—Announced freshman bas-ketball F Dante Milligan left the program and

### TANK MCNAMARA

DURING THE NHL LOCKOUT, "HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA," A TELEVISION INSTITUTION UP NORTH, HAS RENAMED ITSELF "HOCKEY GOONS AND ENFORCERS NIGHT IN CANADA." پ



# rallies for 20th win

BY TOM CANAVAN The Associated Press

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Jim Boeheim hardly had to say a word at halftime with his fourth-ranked Syracuse Orange trailing Rutgers by 18 points.

Gerry McNamara, Josh Pace, Hakim Warrick and Billy Edelin did most of the talking, and it wasn't pretty. Only effective.

Terrence Roberts converted a three-point play with 7.2 seconds left and the Orange (20-1, 7-0 Big East) barely survived a last-second, three-point shot by Quincy Douby in rallying for an 86-84 victory on Monday night, giving Boeheim his 696th win

'We definitely challenged each other to turn the game around, and we knew we could go out and play our best basketball." Warrick said after Syracuse won its 13th in a row and became the first Division I team to win 20 games

this season "Great teams are going to have to accept criticism, and we all dished it out to each other, added McNamara, who had 21 points. "That's what it's about. If you can still love each other and care about each other after you just screamed in each other's face, that's what's going to make a great team

Not only did the yelling work, so did the Orangemen's full-court press

Syracuse forced four turnovers in less than 90 seconds in cutting the deficit to seven.

"I've been in comebacks, but not that fast," said Warrick, who scored five of his 21 points in the opening 43 seconds of the second half. "To be down 18, turn it around and actually go up six says a lot about this team

The win gave Boeheim 20 victories for the 27th time in 29 seasons at his alma mater, moving him into a tie with Texas Tech's Bob Knight for second place among coaches with 20-win sea-

Former North Carolina coach Dean Smith leads with 30.

"This was a great comeback," Boeheim said. "There is no doubt at halftime this was looking like a 25-point game the wrong way, and I would not have been sur prised.

Ricky Shields had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Rutgers (7-9. 1-5), which just missed its biggest upset in losing for the sixth time in seven games. It previous biggest win was against No. 6 West Virginia in February 1982.

The Scarlet Knights did everything right in the opening half, leading by as many as 20 and taking a 54-36 lead to the locker

"We were really happy at half-me," Douby said. "We were time." probably a little too happy, I'm not going to lie."

Syracuse didn't take the lead until Pace scored inside for a 75-74 lead, and the Orangemen increased the margin to 80-74 on a three-pointer by McNamara with just under six minutes to play.

# Syracuse Sooners' paint job upsets Cowboys

BY JEFF LATZKE

The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. - Kevin Bookout and Taj Gray found a weakness un front against Oklahoma State, and exploited it again and again.

Bookout scored 23 points and Gray added 22 Monday night as the 13th-ranked Sooners dominated No. 9 Oklahoma State inside on its way to a 67-57 win.

"Pretty much, the goal tonight was to go out there and play tough," Gray said. "It was about rebounding, physical play and

The Sooners (16-2, 5-0 Big 12) gave back most of an early 17-point lead before taking over again in the second half and giving coach Kelvin Sampson his

250th win at Oklahoma "They're hard to handle." Sampson said.

Gray and Bookout scored the first 19 points for Oklahoma and the big men were there with the game on the line, too.

After Oklahoma State (14-3, 4-2) pulled within 33-27. Bookout scored six points during a 10-0 run that put the Sooners back in control. In the middle of the spurt, Drew Lavender came down on a fastbreak, bounced the ball between his legs, and Gray flew in to jam the ball in with his right hand to put Oklahoma ahead 37-27 and get the crowd immning

After Bookout dropped in a two-handed layup, Oklahoma's lead was 43-27. The advantage kept growing.

Grav converted a three-point Lavender hit a driving play. layup, and Jaison Williams made a three-pointer from the left wing



Oklahoma forward Taj Gray points to the crowd Monday, Jan. 24, 2005, after scoring on a dunk in the first half against Oklahoma State.

extend Oklahoma's lead to 51-31

Joey Graham scored in the lane to start a 13-4 run that gave Oklahoma State some life, but Bookout converted a three-point play, and Williams drilled another three-pointer to put Oklahoma ahead 61-44 with less than 4 minutes to play.

"We knew they were going to come back. The key was to answer," Sampson said. "When a team comes back on you, you better answer and you better not turn it over because turnovers lead to easy baskets."

Oklahoma had a season-low eight turnovers and had 21 assists on its 29 baskets.

"It's amazing what you can accomplish when nobody cares who gets the credit," Sampson said. Ivan McFarlin finished with 16

points to lead Oklahoma State and Graham scored 15. John Lucas III, who had been average ing 17.8 points per game, was held to 10 on 3-for-13 shooting. He scored seven points in the final 41/2 minutes.

Oklahoma raced out of the gates and pounded the ball inside to Gray and Bookout, who masterfully ran the high-low and mixed ransition baskets, too.

By the time Gray finished off Lavender's allev-oop with a lavup to make it 19-2, he already had 11 points and a pair of two-handed iams Gray was 5-for-5 to start the game, and Bookout couldn't miss

"They went to their bread and butter," McFarlin said. "They re-ally got to it right away, and we were kind of in a bind.

The Cowboys eventually figured out the plan and were able to keep the ball from Oklahoma's two big men. McFarlin cut the def-icit to 27-18 with a fastbreak layup after Gray tried to force a pass inside to Bookout and it was stolen by a pair of Cowbovs Oklahoma State beat Oklahoma

to the glass early in the second half to cut into the Sooners' lead Daniel Bobik's long offensive rebound led to a three-pointer by Lucas, and McFarlin's putback brought the Cowbovs within six.

But Oklahoma had an answer and it was more Bookout and

The tandem scored 11 of the next 13 points, and Oklahoma State was never within single digits again.

They're both good inside play ers," Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton said. "They can't score from beyond 15 feet I don't think, but boy, you let them get inside, and they're tough.

## Down under boards, Bogut drills Air Force

SALT LAKE CITY - Once Andrew Bogut got the ball. Air Force had no chance to ston

Bogut scored 25 points on 11-for-12 shooting to lift No. 25 Utah to a 63-51 victory Mon-

day night over the Falcons. "After last year, I wanted to prove to myself

I could score and board against these guys said Bogut, who didn't play to his potential last season when Air Force swept the season series for the first time. Utah (17-3, 5-0 Mountain West Conference)

entered the Top 25 on Monday for the first time since being ranked for two weeks in 2002-03, and made sure this game would end differently. The Utes took apart Air Force with quick

passes and lobs to Bogut, a 7-foot sophomore from Australia. Bogut, who leads the nation in rebounding and double-doubles, also had nine rehounds "I was just throwing it up there to him. He

went up and got the ball and then it was over for the defense," said Mark Jackson, who had 11 points and tied his career-high with 10 assists

The Utes, playing under first-year coach Ray Giacoletti, have won 12 straight since losing at Arizona on Dec. 11. The other losses were at Washington and Utah State.

The Utes shot a school-record 80 percent from the field (24-for-30) against the nation's No. 1 scoring defense. Utah's previous best shooting game was 73.7 percent against Air



Utah center Andrew Bogut, right, gets to the basket before Air Force guard Antoine Hood, left, can defend him during the first half.

Force in 1987

"I've never been involved in a game where a team has shot 80 percent. I have to praise our guys. They maintained their focus and discipline for 40 minutes," Giacoletti said.

The game plan was simple: pass the ball to Bogut in the post and play tenacious defense against Air Force's back-cutting offense

"Having Bogut down there, we just had to get him the ball. He was scoring and passing and we just fed off of that. We had a lot of great passes," said Bryant Markson, who added 11 points

So close to perfection. Bogut regretted his one miss.

"I was there at the rim and I was going to dunk but the defense was there and I had to pull back and missed a layup," he said.

Nick Welch had 15 points to lead the Falcons (12-7, 3-1), who lost for just the second time in eight games.

"Once Bogut got them rolling, there wasn't too much we could do. He's 7 feet, and once he gets it in the paint we're finished," Welch said. Bogut scored seven points in a 14-2 run to

start the second half that gave Utah a 46-32 lead after Air Force had closed within two points. The Utes, who outrebounded Air Force 23-13, maintained a double-digit lead the rest of the way. The Falcons, who start only one player tall-

er than 6-foot-6, double- and triple-teamed Bogut at every opportunity but still couldn't stop him.

He obviously has a significant size advantage against us and no matter what we tried to do, he didn't let anything bother him," Air Force coach Chris Mooney said. "He's fantas-

# Agassi has no answer for No. 1 Federer

BY PAUL ALEXANDER The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia - In a matchup worthy of a final, defending champion Roger Federer was graceful and at his relentless best in beating four-time winner Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 on Tuesday to advance to the semifinals of the Australian

The top-ranked Federer extended his winning streak to 26 matches with a dazzling array of stinging winners from the baseline, crisp volleys



and 22 aces that often left the quick Agassi flat-footed and the sellout crowd applauding. "He just outplayed me," Agassi said. "He

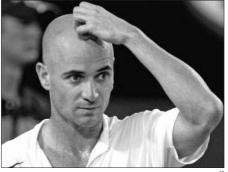
nent that he doesn't look to me for advice

The 34-year-old Agassi, who came into the season-opening Grand Slam in perhaps the best shape of his life to be ready for matches like this, survived a record 51 aces in his fourth-round victory over Joachim Johansson by exploiting the few chances he got.

But one of the game's best counter-punchers never could find a real weakness to exploit against Federer's all-around game.

"I wanted tonight to be memorable. But it's one I'd probably prefer to forget," Agassi said. "I never got my teeth into it. And when I don't get my teeth into a match, I can look pretty ordinary.

With both players painting the lines and punishing ordinary shots, Federer broke



Andre Agassi was left scratching his head on Tuesday by defending Australian Open champion Roger Federer. Federer extended his winning streak to 26 matches in straight sets.

for a 4-2 lead in the first set when Agassi, trying to put a little extra on a second serve, double-faulted.

Then, as he did again and again while winning three Grand Slam events last year, Federer found an extra gear when he

needed it. The Swiss star saved four break points

- two with aces — while serving for the

set in a game that went to deuce six times. A third ace gave Federer his third set oint, and he turned a good service return from Agassi into a backhand winner down the line

said. "It's like roulette. I always pick the right numbers. Federer then broke Agassi in the first

'I have no secrets," a smiling Federer

game of each of the next two sets and fended off the charismatic American's only other break point, in the fourth game of the second set, with a pair of service winners sandwiched around an ace.

With the crowd urging Agassi to extend the match, Federer finished it off with a serve that Agassi lunged for but could only dump into the net.

Asked how he made it look so easy. Federer said: "First of all, a good start always helps, especially against Andre. I really served well the whole match. He never broke me '

Federer next faces fourth-seeded Marat Safin, who he beat in last year's final. But while Safin was exhausted then after playing six grueling matches that took more than 18 hours, he's been on the court only 10½ hours through five matches so far, including 90 minutes Tuesday to beat No. 20 Dominik Hrbaty 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Safin also avoided the baking sun - his match was the first of the tournament played under a closed roof at Rod Laver

While the extremely fit Hrbaty wanted to play with the roof open, Safin was happy with the decision to close it.

"I saw that he really wanted to play with the heat," Safin said. "I think it's an advantage for him. The tournament director came in said they were going to close the roof. I said 'Yes!

"It was a great match for me — I played the best tennis I could," said Safin, who hit 33 winners.

The other semifinal matchup will be determined Wednesday when second-ranked Andy Roddick faces No. 26 Nikolay Davydenko and No. 3 Lleyton Hewitt meets No. 9 David Nalbandian.

# Things heat up for Williams-Sharapova rematch

BY PAUL ALEXANDER The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia Maria Sharapova survived the heat. Serena Williams made sure she wasn't on the court long enough to let it affect her, then she let off some steam

Playing under a broiling sun that led tournament officials to close the roofs on the two show courts after their matches. fourth-seeded Sharapova and No. 7 Williams won Tuesday to set up a semifinal meeting at the Austra lian Open. It will be a rematch of last year's Wimbledon final, when the 17-year-old Sharapova won her first Grand Slam title.

Williams' toughest time came after she beat second-seeded Amelie Mauresmo 6-2, 6-2, She bristled when she was asked whether her and sister Venus' skills - they have combined for 10 Grand Slam singles titles are declining, and whether she needs to win this tournament to prove they aren't.

"I'm tired of not saying any thing, but that's not fair," Williams snapped. "We've been practicing really hard. We've had some serious injuries."

Her voice catching, she also said the shooting death of another sister in September 2003 has been a distraction.

"We have a very, very, very, very, very close family," Williams said. "To be in some situation that we've been placed in the past little over a year, it's not easy to





AP photos

Serena Williams, left, and Maria Sharapova, right, celebrate after overcoming the extreme heat and high-seeded opponents to advance to a semifinals matchup at the Australian Open.

come out and just perform at your best when you realize there are so many things that are so important.

"We're not declining. I don't have to win this tournament to prove anything I know that I'm one of the best players out here.

She certainly looked to be against Mauresmo, who claimed she was only at 50 percent after tweaking the thigh that she wrapped for every match to try to avoid a recurrence of a muscle

Mauresmo, one of the fittest players on the women's tour, has

been plagued by injuries and withdrew from the Australian last vear before her quarterfinal match with a back muscle strain. She recently added a physical therapist to her entourage to help keen her healthy.

Williams, who won the Australian championship in 2003 but didn't defend it last year because of a knee problem, took 71 minutes and hit 23 sizzling winners to beat Mauresmo, who clubbed 27 unforced errors.

"I feel great," said Williams, who was downcast Sunday after what she considered a bad performance in her fourth-round victo-"I played really well — I was

just really focused Williams didn't win a major title in 2004, losing the Wimbledon final - as the two-time defending champion — to Sharapo-

"I think I was way too nervous at Wimbledon." Williams said. "I couldn't sleep, I couldn't breathe. Sometimes you want it too bad that you just freak yourself out. She vowed to be more relaxed

this time against Sharapova, who appeared on the verge of collapse

in beating U.S. Open winner Svetlana Kuznetsova 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

The players took a 10-minute break between the second and third sets. During the changeovers, they put ice packs and wet towels on their necks. Each constantly took shelter between points in small patches of shade at the ends of the court.

Sharapova seemed to be struggling most, leaning on her racket and hanging her head. Kuznetsova often found herself waiting to serve while Sharapova slowly made her way to return

Kuznetsova committed 53 unforced errors and failed to hold any of her last eight service games. She gave Sharapova a match point with a double-fault.

Sharapova whipped a running forehand crosscourt winner to close out the match in 2 hours, 17 minutes. She dropped her racket, backed into the shade and flung both arms in the air.

"I need a wheelchair right now," she said, "It was so hot, It was one of the toughest [matches]

Asked how much energy she had left, she said: "Just enough to win that match point, that's it.

Williams followed her on court. While her match was in progress, play on outside courts was sus-

pended under the tournament's extreme heat policy Organizers won't allow match-

es to start after the temperature reaches 95 degrees, and other factors, including humidity and the temperature on court, reach set

#### NBA scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic	: Divisi	on		
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	19	21	.475	-
Roston	18	22	450	1
Toronto	18	24	429	ž
New York	17	23	425	2
New Jersey	15	25	375	4
Southeas	at Divis	ion		
Miami	30	13	.698	_
Washington	25	15	.625	31/5
Orlando	22	18	.550	61/5
Charlotte	8	29	216	19
Atlanta	8	31	.205	20
Central	Divisio	n		
Cleveland	24	16	.600	-
Detroit	23	18	.561	11/2
Chicago	20	19	.513	31/2
Indiana	20	19	.513	31/2
Milwaukee	15	24	.385	81/2

Western Conference							
Southwest Division							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
San Antonio	34	10	.773	-			
Dallas	27	13	.675	5			
Houston	23	19	548	10			
Memphis	23	19	548	10			
New Orleans	7	33	.175	25			
Northwest I	ivis	ion					
Seattle		11	.718	_			
Minnesota	22	19	537	7			
Denver	17	23	425	111/2			
Portland		24	400	121/2			
Utah		28	.333	151/2			
Pacific Div			.555	13/1			
Phoenix	32	10	762	_			
Sacramento	27	12	692	31/2			
L.A. Lakers	22	16	579	8			
L.A. Clippers	19	22	463	121/5			
Golden State	12	29	293	191/5			
Monday's games							
Philadelphia 106, Mian	QR						
Washington 106 Cleveland 97							

Philadelphia 106, Mlam<sup>5</sup> 98
Washington 106, Cleveland 79
Chicago 107, Atlanta 82
Chicago 107, Atlanta 82
Portland 107, San Antonio 99
LA. Clipper 97, Dallas 87
Boston at Charlotte
Phoenix at New York
Orlando at Memphis
New York
Orlando at Memphis
New Jersy at Sacramento
Seattle at LA. Lakers
Indianx at Lakers
Mamil at Toronto
Memphis at Cleveland
Mamil at Toronto
Memphis at Cleveland

Indiana at Boston Miami at Toronto Memphis at Cleveland Philadelphia at Washington Denver at Detroit Phoenix at Milwaukee Atlanta at Minnesota w Orleans Seattle at Utah
Dallas at Portland
New Jersey at Golden State
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers
Thursday's games
Detroit at Indiana
Charlotte at Chicago
Sacramento at San Antonio

#### Monday 76ers 106. Heat 98

MIAMI — E.Jones 3-12.55 14, Haslem 5-13
3-4 13, O'Neal 9-12.6-17-24, D.Jones 2-6 0-62, 3-4
3-4 13, O'Neal 9-12.6-17-24, D.Jones 2-6 0-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62, 3-62,

Pillidelphia 25 25 26 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25—18 25

WASHINGTON — Jamison 2-9 12-17 16, Jef-fries 4-10 4-5 12, Haywood 5-6 5-6 15, Hayes 6-11 0-0 13, Arenas 7-18 13-16 30, Ruffin 1-0-02, Peeler 3-95-514, Thomas 2-5 0-0 4, Prof-it 0-2 0-0 0, Walker 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 30-72

9-49 106. CLEVELAND — James 12-26 6-10 31, Gooder 13 7-7 17, Ilgauskas 5-11 1-2 11, Snow 5-16 -2 10, Newble 5-9 0-0 10, Varejao 2-4 0-0 4 raylor 4-7 1-2 9, Harris 2-8 0-0 5. Totals 40-94 5-23 97.

15-23-97.

Washington

Washington

Cheelanti Goals—Washington 12-22-29.

The orange of the control of the contr

#### Bulls 107. Hawks 82

CHICAGO - Deng 5-72-213, Davis 1-2-0-2, Curry 9-11 1-1 19, Hirrich 3-8 3-3 11, Davis 1-2-0-2, Curry 9-11 1-1 19, Hirrich 3-8 3-3 11, Davis 1-2-2-4, O-Harrington 5-5 15, Noclotin 1-7-2-4, O-Harrington 5-5 15, Noclotin 1-7-2-4, O-Harrington 5-5 8-121, By Pargo 6-5-0-0, Criffin 1-1-0-2, Pilat 7-1-2-4-11, Collier 2-6-2-7-6, Lue 3-9-1-18, Davis 1-2-1-2-4-11, Collier 2-6-2-7-6, Lue 3-9-1-18, Davis 1-2-2-6, Lue 3-9-1-18, Davis 1-2-2-6, Lue 3-2-1-2-6, Lue 3-2-2-6, 
Chicago	23 35 36 13-107
Atlanta	24 12 21 25- 82
Three-Point Goals-	Chicago 9-16 (Duhon
4-6, Hinrich 2-4, Gordon	
ta 2-9 (Walker 1-3, Lu	e 1-3, Delk 0-1, A.Har-
rington 0-2). Fouled	Out-None, Rebound-
s-Chicago 46 (O.Hari	rington 8), Atlanta 57
(A.Harrington 12),	Assists-Chicago 26
(Duhon 9), Atlanta	15 (Walker 4), Total
Fouls-Chicago 30.	Atlanta 26, Techni-
cals-Chandler, A.Hari	rington, Walker, Ekez-
ie, A-11,659 (19,445),	

Timberwolves 86, Pistons 83 DETROIT — Prince 1-1 0-0 2, R.Wallace 7-15 0-1 16, B.Wallace 5-11 1-3 11, Hunter 2-12 3-3 7, Billups 7-20 8-9 22, Dupree 4-8 1-1 9, McDyss 2-7 2-4 6, Arroyo 4-10 2-4 10, Ham 0-2 0-0 0, Goldwire 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-86 17-25 83. MINNESOTA — Sprewell 1-5 0-0 2. Ga

MINNESOTA — Sprewell 1-5 0-0 2, Garnett 8-14 6-7 22, Johnson 1-3 0-2 2, Hassell 2-6 1-2 5, Carter 1-6 8-10 10, Hudson 3-7 1-2 7, Szczer-blak 6-14 3-4 15, Holberg 2-3 4-4 9, Griffin 3-10 5-6 14, Thomas 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 27-68 28-37 Minnesota
Three-Point Gaals—Detroit 1-21 (R.Wallace
2-5, Arroyo 0-1, Hunter 0-2, Billiups 0-4), Minnesota 4-11, (Griffin 3-6, Holberg 1-1,
Griffin 3

#### Rockets 89, Magic 78

ORLANDO — Hill 5-12 0-1 10, D.Howard 2-5 0-0 4, Cato 3-6 5-6 11, Francis 10-28 3-5 23, Turkoglu 4-11 0-0 8, Christie 1-4 2-2 4, Garrity 1-4 0-0 3, Nelson 6-9 0-0 12, Battie 1-2 0-0 2,

Orlando
Houston
15 12 24 27—78
Houston
There-Point Goals—Orlando 1-8 (Garrity
1-2, Turkogiu 0-2, Francis 0-4), Houston 3-14
Gard 10-1, Turkogiu 0-2, Sura (-5), Fouled Out-Nelson, Rebounds—Orlando 51 (D.Howard
11), Houston 55 (Sura 11), Assists—Orlando
13 (Francis 7), Houston 22 (Sura 7), Total
Fouls—Orlando 23, Houston 19, A—18,282
(17,382).

#### Trail Blazers 107, Spurs 99

Trail Blazers 107, Spurs 99
SM AHTONO - Down 1-4 0-2 , Duncan 9-20 6-10 2A, Massenburg 2-2 0-6 4, Ginobil 19-20 6-10 2A, Massenburg 2-2 0-6 4, Ginobil 19-20 6-10 2A, Massenburg 2-2 0-6 4, Ginobil 19-20 4, Mine 19 cals—Portland coach Cheeks, Van Ejected—Van Exel. A—15,575 (19,980).

#### Clippers 97. Mayericks 87

0-0-0-0 Totals 30-monte 60-3-4 (. Marfill Dollas 30-monte 60-3-4 (. Marfill Dollas 31-4 (.

#### **NBA** leaders

Scoring								
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG			
rson, Phil.	38	372	316	1105	29.1			
ant, LAL	34	285	298	934	27.5			
witzki, Dall.	39	343	316	1057	27.1			
udemire, Phoe.	42	399		1079	25.7			
Grady, Hou.	39	348	213	985	25.3			
nes, Clev.	40	382	198	999	25.0			
en. Sea.	39	310	210	928	23.8			
de, Mia.	39	318	284	923	23.7			
nas, Wash.	38	284	237	897	23.6			
nett, Minn.	41	351	235	941	23.0			
Rebounds								
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG			
nett, Minn.	41	133	460	593	14.5			
Wallace, Det.	33	134	270	404	12.2			

# **Conference leaders upset**

### Iverson leads 76ers over Heat; Spurs stunned in Portland

Allen Iverson often saves his best for big matchups. The Portland Trail Blazers' outstanding performance was much more surprising.

Boosted by a boisterous home crowd, Iverson scored 45 points and handed out 11 assists Monday night to lead the Philadelphia 76ers over Shaquille O'Neal and the Miami Heat 106-98 in a matchup of Eastern Conference division leaders.
"He was spectacular," Sixers coach Jim O'Brien

said. "Those stats are beyond belief."

The injury-riddled Trail Blazers also opened

some eyes, defeating the NBA-leading San Antonio Spurs 107-99 behind Damon Stoudamire's 23 points and nine

> Portland stopped a six-game losing streak and won for just the playing without its top two play-

ers, Zach Randolph and Shareef Abdur-Rahim, as well as guard Derek Anderson.

NBA

"Sometimes you have to step up to the challenge when you are playing the best," Stoudamire said. Joel Przybilla added 17 points and 16 rebounds for Portland, which shot 56 percent and kept the Spurs at bay when they tried to rally in the second

Ruben Patterson, who finished with 15 points and eight rebounds, and Darius Miles, who scored 21 off the bench, made key plays for the Blazers in the fourth quarter.

"It was a gutsy game," coach Maurice Cheeks

Tim Duncan had 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs (34-10), who had won four straight and were coming off a 103-73 win over Sacramento on Sunday night

At Philadelphia, Samuel Dalembert had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Sixers, who took over down the stretch.

O'Neal scored 24 points and Dwyane Wade had 17 points and 11 assists for the Heat, who were coming off a 29-point win the night before against New Or-

The Heat are just 5-6 since a 14-game winning streak, prompting O'Neal to challenge his team-

"We can't keep playing like this," he said. "I was telling the guys in the shower we have 40 games left and we need to go 30-10."

Wizards 106, Cavaliers 97: At Cleveland, Anthony Peeler made three three-pointers and scored all 14 of his points in the fourth quarter, and Gilbert Arenas scored 30 to help Washington rally.

The Wizards, who scored just 30 points in the first half, overcame a 17-point deficit to win for the 10th time in 12 games.

LeBron James just missed his third triple-double in four games, finishing with 31 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists.

Rockets 89. Magic 78: At Houston, Yao Ming

LARYBANBERA

76ers guard Allen Iverson looks for a way around Heat center Shaquille O'Neal. Iverson had 45 points and 11 assists in Philadelphia's victory.

had 22 points and 10 rebounds. Jon Barry scored 19 and the Rockets won their third straight despite playing without leading scorer Tracy McGrady.

Houston completed a two-game season sweep of the Magic in five days, proving that — at least for now — it got the better of the summer blockbuster trade that involved McGrady and Steve Francis

McGrady missed the game because of a medical emergency in his family. Team officials weren't sure where he was going or how long he would be

Playing in Houston for the first time since the trade, Francis had 23 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, but also committed seven turnovers.

Bulls 107, Hawks 82: At Atlanta, Eddy Curry scored 19 points, five of his Chicago teammates also reached double figures and the Bulls (20-19) surged over .500 for the first time in more than two years.

Timberwolves 86, Pistons 83: At Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett had 22 points and nine rebounds, and the backups came up big again for the Timber-

Reserves Wally Szczerbiak (15 points), Eddie Griffin (14 points, 10 rebounds, seven blocks), Fred Hoiberg (nine points) and Troy Hudson (seven points, seven assists) helped Minnesota win its third straight.

Clippers 97. Mayericks 87: At Los Angeles. Elton Brand scored 10 of his 23 points during a 2:11 span of the fourth quarter for the Clippers, who beat Dallas for only the fifth time in the past 25 meetings.

#### Players, fans who brawled meeting in court It was not immediately clear

#### BY SARAH KARUSH

The Associated Press

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. Members of the Indiana Pacers who clashed with Detroit Pistons fans in one of the most violent melees in NBA history may be reunited - in a courtroom.

Nine people charged in the brawl at The Palace of Auburn Hills were scheduled for a pretrial conference Tuesday after in 52nd District Court in Rochester Hills. A 10th was to appear earlier in the day.

whether District Judge Lisa Asadoorian planned to gather the nine defendants in the same room at the same time. It also was not known whether each planned to attend the hearing. A warrant was expected to be

issued for any defendant who failed to appear. A pretrial conference is held to discuss matters such as evidence and witnesses, and to establish a timetable

Pacers players facing misde-

meanor charges in the Nov. 19 brawl are Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, Anthony Johnson, David Harrison and Jermaine O'Neal.

Fans charged with misdemeanors are John Green, John Acker-man, William Paulson and David Wallace, brother of Pistons center Ben Wallace.

Fan Bryant Jackson is charged with felonious assault for allegedly tossing a chair. He was scheduled to appear for a preliminary examination in the same court

Tuesday morning.



NASCAR chairman and CEO Brian France said Monday about the season-ending 10-race shootout for the points title, "We feel like we have a pretty good system. ... We did look hard at making any adjustments."

# NASCAR's 10-race Chase back for '05

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—
NASCAR's points system will be unchanged from last year, when the debut of a 10-race shootout format resulted in the closest championship finish in series history.

"We feel like we have a pretty good system and we're set for '05," NASCAR chairman Brian France said Monday. "We did look hard at making any potential adiustments."

In 2004, France began his first year as head of NASCAR by overhauling the decades-old points system and creating a playoff structure for 10 drivers over the final 10 events of the Nextel Cup

season.

Five drivers went into the November season finale with a chance to win the title. When the race ended at Homestead-Miami Speedway, only eight points separated champion Kurt Busch from runner-un Jimmie Johnson.

That, France said, was proof the system worked. The only time NASCAR had more drivers in contention was 1992, when six raced in the finale with a shot to win the title. Alan Kulwicki beat Bill El-

liott by 10 points.
"You know, 2004 is undoubtedby going to go down as either the
greatest seasons we've ever had,
or one of the greatest seasons
we've ever had," France said.
"Did we make racing better?"
Was the racing on the track
"Was the racing on the rack
est of the proportunities for the best drivers in the world to do their thing?
And the answer is absolutely, and
the Chase was a big part of that."

Again, the first 26 of the season's 36 races will be used to determine the participants for the 10-race championship finale. The top 10 in the standings following the race at Richmond in September — plus any driver within 400 points of first place — will have their points totals reset for the final 10 events.

In resisting the urge to tinker with the system, NASCAR will begin the season without any major changes for the first time in four years.

#### Artest returns to practice

INDIANAPOLIS — Ron Artest practiced with the Indiana Pacers on Monday for the first time in over two months since he was sus-

#### Sports briefs

pended for fighting with Detroit

Artest did not comment as he left the practice court at Conseco Fieldhouse, but teammates and coach Rick Carlisle said his presence gave the struggling Pacers a

"Having a guy like Ron in practice helps raises the level of practice in terms of intensity because he's one of the real warrior-type players we have in this league," Carlisle said. "He came back in here today and it was like he never left."

Commissioner David Stern suspended the All-Star for the remainder of the season after he bolted into the stands at The Palace on Nov. 19 and exchanged punches with Pistons fans, who showered Artest and the rest of the Pacers with debris.

#### Ghostzapper wins horse of the year over Smarty Jones

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Smarty Jones finished second again — even with a big head

Ghostzapper, who capped an unbeaten season with a stunning Breeders' Cup Classic victory, easily beat Smarty Jones to win Horse of the Year honors at Monday night's Eclipse Awards.

"It's a great honor," said Hall of Famer Bobby Frankel, who trains Ghostzapper. "It wouldn't have been a disgrace if we got beat. The other horse deserved it, too."

Smarty Jones won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness before his Triple Crown bid ended June 5 with a narrow loss to Birdstone in the Belmont Stakes. That turned out to be his final

Meanwhile, Ghostzapper was a relatively unknown 4-year-old getting ready for his first race of the year, which came July 4.

But by the end of October, Ghostzapper was clearly the top thoroughbred in the world. Ghostzapper received 174 votes to Smarty Jones' 95 in ballot-

ing by turf writers and racing secretaries.

Ghostzapper won all four of his starts in 2004 and earned \$2.59

starts in 2004 and earned \$2.59 million. He won the 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-mile Classic in a record 1:59.

# Mets, Marlins, Orioles play the waiting game on Delgado

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Mets, Florida Marlins and Baltimore Orioles await Carlos Delgado's decision.

Delgado's agent, David Sloane, said Sunday that New York had withdrawn — a statement that puzzled the Mets, who said they were



waiting to hear back after saying they needed to have a decision. On Monday, the sides started

talking again.
"I spoke to the Marlins, Mets
and Orioles today regarding our respective proposals," Sloane said in an e-mail. "Carlos and I also

talked about all three offers. There will be further discussion tomorrow with all the concerned parties." Texas, which had offered a \$48 million, four-year contract, withdrew Sunday, with Delgado saying he wasn't prepared to be a designated hitter most of the

time.

In Miami, free-agent outfielder Magglio Ordonez
met with Detroit owner Mike Ilitch and his top staff.
Tigers President Dave Dombrowski and manager
Alan Trammell also attended the meeting, as did

agent Scott Boras and associate Mike Fore.
Ordonez, a four-time All-Staw who turns 31 on Friday, hit 792 last season with nine homers and 37 RBIs in 202 a tabats for the Chicago White Sox. A career 307 hitter with 187 homers, he missed 36 games after injuring his left knee May 19, then went on the disabled list for good on July 22 with bone narrow elderness.

"We've actually had a number of calls prior to this meeting," Boras said. "Their doctors have talked with Magglio's doctors. They're certainly comfortable he'll be ready to go by spring training."

Dombrowski and Trammell didn't return telephone calls seeking comment.

Other players did make their picks Monday. First baseman Tony Clark agreed to a \$750,000, one-year contract with his hometown Arizona Diamondbacks. Clark, 32, appeared in 106 games and started 64 for the New York Yankees last season, hitting. 221 with 16 home runs and 49 RBIs.

"From the time the Diamondbacks came into existence. I was already here hoping that an opportuni-

would come at some point," Clark sai

Rich Aurilia and the Reds agreed to a minor league contract that gives the 33-year-old former All-Star the chance to become Cincinnati's starting shortstop. He would get a \$600,000, one-year contract if he is added to the major league roster.

"I still think I offer a lot as an everyday player," Aurilia said. "I'm not thinking I'm going to be just a backup guy."

Ben Grieve agreed Monday to a minor league contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates, who will give the 1998 AL Rookie of the Year a shot to make their increasingly crowded outfield. He would get a \$500,000, one-year contract if the Pirates add him to their big league roster. "He's got some experience, and we have ouite a

few young guys so he should be a big help," general manager Dave Littlefield said. "In the past he's been very productive, although not as much recently, and he gives us another alternative."

Japanese second baseman Tadahito Iguchi and the White Sox agreed on a two-year contract. Iguchi will get between \$2 million and \$2.5 million per season, and the White Sox will have an option for a third year. The agreement was reported by Kyodo in Japan and on Chicago's Web site.

An official announcement will come after Iguchi takes a physical. He would be the second White Sox player from Japan, joining reliever Shingo Takatsu, who was 6-4 with a 2.31 ERA and 19 saves in his first season a year ago.

Three players in salary arbitration settled, leaving 31 scheduled for hearings next month.

Right-hander Brad Penny, obtained by Los Angeles from Florida last summer, agreed to a \$5.1 million, one-year deal with the Dodgers. Penny was 1-2 with a 3.09 ERA in 11 ½ innings for Los Angeles before he was sidelined Aug. 9 due to a nerve problem in his bitching arm.

"We believe Brad can be one of the top young pitchers in the National League," Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta said. "Dodger fans have only begun to see his ability."

Right-hander Jake Westbrook, who became an All-Star for Cleveland last year, agreed to a \$7.5 million, two-year contract, and Pittsburgh utilityman Rob Mackowiak agreed to a \$1.5 million, one-year deal.

### NHL labor talks set for this week

By IRA PODELL

NEW YORK — The NHL and the players' association are taking another shot to save the hockey season, which has seemingly been on the brink of cancellation for weeks.

After a two-day meeting last week — initiated by Vancouver Canucks center Trevor Linden — that produced no tangible progress toward a labor agreement, the league invited the union back to the negotiating table on Monday.

The sides agreed as late as last Thursday that philosophical differences remain, yet the same small group of negotiators that met last week in Chicago and Toronto will get together Wednesday in Toronto.

"The league contacted our office to arrange for continued small-group discussions. We agreed to this request," players' association senior director Ted Saskin said Monday.

Just like last week, these talks will go on without NHL Commis-

sioner Gary Bettman or union chief Bob Goodenow. Linden, the NHLPA president.

Saskin and outside counsel John McCambridge will represent the players again in Toronto. NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly, Calgary Flames part-owner Harley Hotchkiss, and outside counsel Bob Batterman will take part for the league.

The sides had hoped to sit down in secrecy, but word of where and when the meeting would take place got out quickly — just like last week.

"We both believe that the process now will be better served by a less-public approach to the negotiation," Daly said in an e-mail statement.

The lockout reached its 131st day on Monday and has already forced the cancellation of 699 of 1,230 regular-season games, plus the All-Star Game.

No proposals have been made since early December, when the players offered a 24 percent rollback on all existing contracts as part of a luxury-tax and revenue-sharing system. The NHL turned that down and made a counterproposal five days later that was rejected in a few hours. The NHL might be set to make

The NHL might be set to make a new offer this week. If the season is wiped out, the

Stanley Cup wouldn't be awarded for the first time since 1919, when a flu epidemic canceled the final series between Seattle and Montreal. The NHL would then become the first major North American sports league to lose an entire season because of a labor dispute.

Optimism was expressed last Wednesday after the first day of meetings when Linden and Hotchkiss had a chance to talk one-on-one.

The good feeling didn't carry over to the next day, though, and Linden reportedly told players in a recorded message on the players' Web site that the NHL was still insisting on a salary cap and that the season would likely be canceled

Daly said he was surprised that Linden came away from the meetings with that opinion because the NHL felt that some progress was made. Both sides admitted that they were still far apart on the key issue.

### Bettis, Burress unsure of future in Pittsburgh

BY ALAN ROBINSON

PITTSBURGH — Plaxico Burress seems convinced he has played his final game with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Jerome Bettis isn't so sure about his future.

Bettis, whose comeback following two disappointing seasons was a highlight of the Steelers' unexpectedly good season, addressed his teammates during an emotional meeting Monday that left Hines Ward in tears.

While Bettis insists he hasn't made up his mind to retire, Ward fears a 41-27 loss to New England in the AFC championship game Sunday night was The Bus' final appearance for the Steelers.

The thought of the Steelers being without Bettis, especially after he fell one game short of the Super Bowl for the third time with Pittsburgh, left Ward visibly distraught.

visiony distraught.

"We put it all on the line," Ward said Monday, tears streaming down his face. "It's disappointing. I wanted to win more than anything for him. He deserves to be a champion."

Burress, the Steelers' top downfield threat, apparently doesn't think they will make a major effort to re-sign him. He also is disappointed with the limited number of throws that came his way Sunday, though he dropped a fade pass in the end zone that would have pulled Pittsburgh within 34-27 early in the

fourth quarter.
"It's Pittsburgh, which speaks for itself. They're not going to change," Burress said. "I'm not going to change. Three or four balls just doesn't suit me very ural!"

By contrast, Bettis never criticized coach Bill Cowher's decision to start Duce Staley for the first half of the season.

of the season.

That team-first attitude and Bettis' seven consecu-

tive 100-yard games after Staley was hurt left a major impression on his teammates. Bettis was in his best shape in years, not missing



Jerome Bettis gave an emotional speech to the Steelers Monday but stopped short of saying he'll retire.

any games due to injury while averaging nearly 113 yards in eight starts. His footwork and ability to cut also were visibly better than a season ago.

"I'm still in the middle of the road," said Bettis,

"Tm still in the middle of the road," said Bettis, who'll be 33 next month. "I need to get away from it and the loss and just take some time away."

Bettis said he talked to his teammates not to tell them goodbye, but because it might be the last time this group of Steelers would be together. "I need to look at it and let my body tell me what

to do," Bettis said. "If physically I can come back and be as productive as I was this year, then that's something that I would like to do. But if I can't, then I don't want to be out there and I don't want to take away from this football team."

The Steelers must restructure Bettis' contract again if he returns. Bettis is due to make \$4,484,000, with a cap value of \$5,484,000, in 2005.

Burress' departure after five seasons would take away quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's top deep threat and also require the Steelers to add another receiver via the draft or free agency.

Burress missed five of Pittsburgh's last six regular-season games with a sore hamstring, causing him to finish with 35 catches — 43 fewer than two seasons ago.

"Everybody keeps telling me what an important person I am on this football team, but you can't justify that for me right now," Burress said. "Just look at the whole season — it speaks for itself."

# **Pennington has torn rotator cuff**

The Associated Pre

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — New York Jets quarterback Chad Pennington has a torn right rotator cuff, an injury he played with for

the final six games of the season. Pennington was hurt Nov. 7 against Buffalo when he was hit hard after a scramble. An initial MRI exam showed the tear, but the team announced Pennington had a strain. After sitting out three weeks, Pennington returned to play.

Team doctor Elliot Pellman revealed the extent of the injury Tuesday. Pellman said the team is hopeful Pennington will be ready for the start of training camp in July but made no promis-

es.

He said Pennington came back because there was a minimal risk to damaging the shoulder further. But it appeared Pennington lost velocity on his passes once he did return, and coach Herman Edwards said the franchise quarterback was playing through pain.

A second MRI following their 20-17 overtime loss to Pittsburgh in the second round of the playoffs showed there was no additional damage.

Pennington will have surgery shortly after the Super Bowl on Feb. 6. Renowned specialist James Andrews will perform the surgery.

"We are optimistic Chad will do absolutely fine," Pellman said. "But as you know, there are black holes with any surgery. We'll have to wait and see."

The severity of the injury is dis-

concerting, because rotator cuff tears are uncommon for quarterbacks. Pitchers are the most likety athletes to sustain the injury, and many take up to a year to fully recover. But quarterbacks do not throw the ball as hard and have fewer motions, so the recovery time could take as few as six months.

#### Ex-Dolphins coach Bates takes over Packers defense

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Jim Bates was hired Monday as defensive coordinator of the Green Bay Packers, marking the second time in two years the team has changed coordinators after losing in the playoffs.

Bates spent 4½ years as Miami's defensive coordinator before taking over as interim coach last year when Dave Wannstedt resigned at midseason. Bates led the Dolphins to a 3-4 record. The team was 1-8 when Wannstedt

After the season, the Dolphins hired Nick Saban as head coach, and Bates decided to leave. He takes over a unit that struggled with pass coverage and poor tackling last season. The Packers ranked 25th in the NFL in total defense and made only eight interfense and made only eight inter-

ceptions.

Green Bay still won the NFC
North, but gave up four touchdown passes to Daunte Culpepper in a 31-17 wild-card playoff
loss to the Minnesota Vikings at
Lambeau Field.



Within days, team president Bob Harlan stripped coach Mike Sherman of his duties as general manager and hired Ted Thompson to take over as GM.

Bates replaces Bob Slowik, who was promoted to defensive coordinator after Ed Donatell was fired a year ago following a playoff loss in Philadelphia.

Bates will have a new staff to work with in Green Bay. Defensive backs coach Kurt Schottenheimer took the same position with St. Louis, and defensive line coach Jethro Franklin left the Packers to take a similar job at

#### K. Schottenheimer named Rams' secondary coach

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Rams hired Kurt Schottenheimer as secondary coach Monday. Schottenheimer replaces Perry Fewell, who left the Rams to work for the Chicago Bears.

The younger brother of Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer served as defensive backs coach for Green Bay last season. Before that, he worked as defensive coordinator for the Detroit Lions from 2002-2003, the Washington Redskins in 2001 and the Kansas City Chiefs from 1999-2000.

He served as the Chiefs' defensive backs coach from 1995-98 and their special teams coach from 1989-94. His first NFL position was as special teams coach for the Cleveland Browns.

### Bucs hire Hackett as QB coach TAMPA, Fla. — It didn't take

Paul Hackett long to land another job.

Less than a week after resigning as New York Jets offensive coordinator, Hackett was hired Monday as quarterbacks coach for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The move reunites Hackett with Jon Gruden, who spent one season as an assistant under his former mentor when Hackett was the head coach at the University of Pittsburgh in the early 1990s.

Hackett left the Jets last

Nacket left the Jess last Wednesday, four days after a 20-17 overtime loss to Pittsburgh in the second round of the playoffs. He had been under mounting pressure and constant criticism because of his unimaginative play-calling.

Gruden jumped at the opportunity to bring him to Tampa Bay as a replacement for John Shoop.

Hackett, an NFL assistant for 16 years, was with the Jets for four seasons. He and Gruden began discussions Thursday, and talks continued over the weekend

Although the Jets made the playoffs in three of Hackett's four seasons in New York, he was always the target of criticism. Things only got worse in 2004, when the team struggled to score despite having the NFL's leading rusher in Curtis Martin.

# Falcons don't expect another dropoff

#### BY PAUL NEWBERRY

ATLANTA — Now comes the hard part for the Atlanta Falcons. Sure, they've had a few break-out seasons — the first division title in 1980, that Super Bowl appearance in 1999, a spot in the MFC championship game this year — but sustained success has always been elusive.

As the Falcons head into their 40th season, having come just one win short of the Super Bowl, they face an enormous historical burden: Amazingly, this franchise has never managed back-to-back winning seasons.

If form holds, Atlanta will go into the 2005 season with huge expectations, only to wind up as a major disappointment. But first-year coach Jim Mora

— actually, it's time to declare that he's not a rookie anymore refuses to look back. He believes this team, with only three 30-something starters, is poised for long-term success.

"It's a bad thing for the rest of the league because we're coming," Mora said Monday, less than 24 hours after the season ended with a 27-10 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles.

Indeed, the Falcons made huge strides this season. They won the NFC South with an 11-5 record. They earned a first-round bye in the playoffs. They routed the St. Louis Rams in the second round.

The ride stalled in Phrozen Philly. The Eagles made Michael Vick look downright mediocre and moved on to face defending champion New England in the Super Bowl.

"It's mixed emotions," Mora said. "On one hand, you're very proud of what you accomplished, because we did accomplish a lot. But on the other hand, you just can't accept not winning it all." There is a significant differ-

ence between the '98 team —
which lost to Denver in the Super
Bowl but slumped to 5-11 the following year — and this group.
The "Dirty Birds" relied heavi-

The "Dirty Birds" relied heavily on older players such as Chris Chandler, Jessie Tuggle, Eugene Robinson, Cornelius Bennett, Tony Martin and Terance Mathis. In fact, the leading tackler (Bennett) and top receiver (Martin) were cut soon after the season because of salary-cap concerns. This team, led by the

This team, led by the 24-year-old Vick at quarterback, is better positioned for growth. Running back Warrick Dunn (30), defensive end Brady Smith (31) and defensive tackle Ed Jasper (32) are the only regulars who've left their 20s behind. The list of unrestricted free agents is a short one: offensive guard Roberto Garza, kicker Jay Feely, limbacker Matt Stewart, cornerback Kevin Mathis and return specialist Allen Rossum.

The Falcons have locked up most of their core players, doing out nearly \$80 million in guaranteed bonuses in the past 13 months to Vick, tight end Alge Crumpler, dominating defensive tackle Rod Coleman, emerging cornerback DeAngelo Hall, offensive guard Kyman Forney and cornerback Lason Webster.

nerback Jason Webster.

"We feel that we have the right people on the bus," Mora said. "Some guys will have to get off and we'll get some new guys on. But we feel like the bus is headed in the right direction. We're just not where we want to be yet."

Of course, it all starts with Vick He finished the season with a thud—11-for-24 passing, four sacks and a key interception against the Eagles—but was voted to the Pro Bowl for the second time and signed the richest contract in NFL history. Vick is an unparalleled runner,

Vick is an unparalleled runner, gaining 902 yards and leading the NFL with a 7.5-yard average. On the other hand, there's plenty of work to be done in the West Coast-style passing game that was installed by Mora and offensive coordinator Greg Knapp.

Mora expects the receivers to play a bigger role next season.

"It's something that will happen," he said. "For us to become the explosive, consistent type of offense ... that we want to be, then we will have to make strides in terms of getting the ball to the

# NFL tries to cover itself from wagering

BY TIM DAHLBERG

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS - The AFC championship game was still in the third quarter, but the wise guys had seen enough. In small rooms



You won't find it on NFL.com, because the league likes to pretend the number doesn't exist

her of the NFL season

But by Monday morning, it was already the talk around office water coolers and inside truck stop diners across the nation.

Can New England win a second straight Super Bowl - make that three in four sea sons - by beating the Philadelphia Eagles? Probably

The real question is: Can the Patriots cover the 61/2-point spread that oddsmakers put up Sunday night even before New England was done routing the Pittsburgh Steelers

That's the question millions of Americans will be trying to answer in the next two weeks as the hype builds to a Super Bowl game climax on Feb. 6 in Jacksonville, Fla

They'll come to Vegas with wads of cash, bet with the corner bookie, or punch a few keys to link up with an Internet betting site. They'll buy squares at bars, get in of

fice pools and wager with the neighbor next door.

They'll make big bets, small bets, stupid bets and crazy bets. Some will bet their favorite team with their heart; others will bet the opening coin flip comes up tails

By the time they're done, billions of dollars will have changed hands. Like it or not, betting and pro football are

joined at the hip. The lines that came out of Las Vegas in

the 40s and 50s helped make the league what it is today, and the amount of money wagered on pro football grows unabated every year.

In Nevada alone, there's likely to be nearly \$100 million bet in legal books on the uper Bowl. That number could reach \$1 billion on the fast-growing Internet betting sites, while hundreds of millions of dollars in other bets exchange hands privately

"A lot of the popularity of the NFL is because of wagering on football," said Stuart Doyle, wagering director of BetW-WTS.com, an Internet sports book. "You only need to read between the lines of the commentary on Monday Night Football or on ESPN to know that or check your morning newspaper."

The NFL has consistently tried to separate itself from betting, and forbids active players from being in sports books or working in casinos. Matt Hill, an NFL communications assistant, said no one was available Monday to elaborate on the league's posi-

The NFL, though, actually helps bettors by requiring teams to provide precise injury information each week — the same information bettors use to make picks and oddsmakers load into their computers to help set lines.

The league's sensitivities are understandable in a way, but they are rooted in a different era. They date back to the early 1960s, when Paul Hornung and Alex Karras were suspended for betting on games and associating with undesirable elements.

Times have changed, though, and so should the league. Some sort of gambling is legal in almost every state now, and the WNBA even has a team that plays in a Connecticut casino. Baseball is warming up to the thought of moving a team to Las Vegas and gambling is now an accepted part of American culture

The NFL doesn't need betting booths in stadiums, but it should understand that it no longer needs to hide from the point

The league could even use them as a promotional tool - on its broadcasts, on its Web site and programs sold at games. What kind of spread did Joe Namath overcome in Super Bowl III? You won't find that out from watching NFL films.

And fantasy football is openly discussed on NFL.com, the NFL Network and during just about every broadcast, but not too many fantasy football leaguers play just

Every NFL game is so scrutinized on the field and in the sports books that even players who wanted to throw a game wouldn't be able to. What kind of money would it take for a quarterback earning \$10 million a year to put the fix in?

'The NFL should thank the Lord every day that Nevada has the regulatory agencies that are able to assure betting is legitimate on football." Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman said.

Forgive Goodman for sticking up for his town. He would like to see an NFL team in Las Vegas, but that's not likely to happen anytime soon. Just two years ago, the NFL refused to even allow a Super Bowl ad promoting Las Vegas as a place to visit.

At the same time, the league allowed advertisers to fork over \$2 million or so a shot to air erectile dysfunction drug commercials laced with sexual innuendo. It also thought it was fine to have talking frogs and cute dogs promote the virtues of drink-

And so, while New England and Philadelphia have rabid fans who care deeply about their teams, there will be millions more watching the Super Bowl wondering just this: Will the Patriots cover the spread?

And why did I bet the coin flip would be heads when I knew all along it would come up tails? Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: tdahlberg@ap.org

# Here's picking the Patriots

DETROIT — I'm taking New Philly understand. This is not a England. What about you? Hurry. Pick now. It's almost too

What's the rush, you ask? There's still 12 days until the

Mitch Albom

Super Bowl. Please! That's the rush. The 12 days are a trap, pure poianv thinking fan.

т Already I can feel the Hype Super oozing out of radio speakers. Already, 1 can see the television talk-

ing heads turn ing "pro" into "con" and "con" into "pro.'

Already. I can see newspaper ink thickening in evenhandedness: "Why The Eagles Will Win" and "Why The Patriots Will Win."

Pretty soon, up will be down and down will be up. Pretty soon. Donovan McNabb will be a more reliable quarterback than Tom Brady. Andy Reid will be a better coach than Bill Belichick. Pretty soon, Terrell Owens will go from hobbled to never hurt.

Pretty soon, everything you thought you knew will be everything you knew you thought. Pick now. I'm warning you. Once the hype seeps in, it's like driving in a blizzard Can't see forest Can't see trees

I'm taking New England. By at least a touchdown And I'm not wavering.

Better team,

better conference Now, I hope my friends in quick pick because it's easy. It's a quick pick because from this point, it only gets harder.

For example, the closer you get to the Super Bowl, the more you'll hear how the Eagles "aren't just satisfied to be going, they want to

Well, of course. Who doesn't want to win?

But deep down, I'm guessing, they may indeed be satisfied to be going. Oh, they'll never admit it. They may not even realize it. But Sunday was likely the Eagles' Super Bowl. The monkey is off their backs. The Patriots? What does Sunday mean to them? Their years are measured now by Super Bowl rings. That's reason No. 1 the Pats get the nod

Reason No. 2. Consider who they played. In the past two weeks, New England held the best offense in football (Indianapolis) to three points, then dropped 41 on the league's best defense (Pittsburgh).

That's beyond versatile, that's ridiculous.

The AFC was a better conference, and when the Patriots had to win in it, they did. They knocked off the Jets twice. Indy twice (counting the playoffs), and Seattle and St Louis from the NFC — all of which turned out to be playoff teams.

The NFC, which fed the Eagles, was a lousy conference this year, and the Eagles only beat two teams that were in the playoffs.

Beating Minnesota was no big deal. That team backed into the postseason anyhow. Atlanta, on Sunday, was tougher with Michael Vick, but still more smoke than substance: a good team, but not an Indy or Pittsburgh.

Keep that in mind, as the Super

Bowl grows closer and ESPN blares and all these good, solid arguments start getting blurry, blur-

#### The Montana factor

Another reason to pick the Pats? They like the jugular. They have more taste for blood than a great white. Did you see Sunday, when Pittsburgh blew that fourth-and-one with a fumble? The very next play, Brady went deep to Deion Branch for a 60-yard touchdown. That's how the Patriots work. You slip, they push you down. You overthrow a pass? They don't get a hand on it, they intercept it. Plain and simple. They make you pay.

They also have, in Brady, this

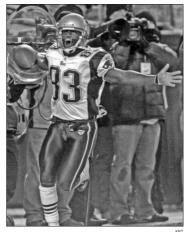
generation's Joe Montana. Montana also played for a brilliant coach on a great "team" with a great "system" and it wasn't until his numbers were undeniable four Super Bowl victories - that people fully appreciated his skills. Brady has two championships and, like Montana, at least to date, he doesn't lose big ones.

McNabb is terrific. But everything's a learning curve. He just advanced on the NFC championship curve. He's still at the start of the Super Bowl version

And don't tell me, with two weeks of preparation, the Phila-delphia coaching staff will come up with a better plan than New England's.

In the end, it's simple. What you saw these past two Sundays from Belichick and his team was more impressive than what you saw from Reid and his. No knock on Philly. They're the NFC's best. But you have to pick one, so you pick the likely winner. And why do you do that now?

Because nothing changes be-



Receiver Deion Branch and the Patriots were most impressive in shutting down Indianapolis and dismantling Pittsburgh in the playoffs.

now and Super Bowl XXXIX. Momentum doesn't shift. Personnel doesn't shift All that shifts is the thinking of the analysts, the pundits, the talk-show hosts and the fans, because, simply put, two weeks is too long to wait between games, and you have to fill the time with something.

So make your pick now, on what you saw Sunday, and hold with it. Hold with it through 50 hours of pregame hype, through news conferences and video clips and medical reports and declarations of "nobody gives us respect."

The best team Sunday night will be the best team two Sundays from now. I say that's New England. End of prediction.

And now, if you'll excuse me, I'll get my earplugs and my eveshades and go hide under a rock

until Feb. 6.

Mitch Albom is a columnist for the Detroit Free Press.

# **Eagles: NFC title 'wasn't our Super Bowl'** Owens

# Philadelphia won't be satisfied with less than winning championship believes

BY BARRY WILNER The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA - The cele brations hardly were muted in Philadelphia. Fans stood atop snow banks on Broad Street, way ing Eagles banners and hats. Cars honked their horns late into the evening. Toasts were raised to Donovan McNabb, Brian Dawkins, Andy Reid - even to Swoop the mascot

For the first time in 24 years. the Eagles are NFC champions. It's not nearly enough.

"There were some tears of joy, definitely," All-Pro safety Dawkins said Monday, looking back at the locker room scene following Sunday's 27-10 victory over the Atlanta Falcons. After three straight title game flops, the Ea gles were headed for the Super Bowl

"It's something we worked for a long time and went through a lot of bad situations - 1-2-3 of losing — so that comes flowing out,"

Dawkins said. "After the tears have ceased, we're ready for the next sten. This wasn't our Super Bowl. We didn't approach it like it was our Super Bowl.'

And they won't approach the next two weeks as anything but business.

'We didn't do what we set out to do yet," Dawkins said. "I have a lot of confidence we'll win."

Beating the defending champion New England Patriots, winners of two of the last three NFL crowns, will take the very best the Eagles have to offer. But they won't bring their full complement offensively. Tight end Chad Lewis, who caught two touchdown passes against Atlanta, is out with a foot injury. And star receiver Terrell Owens, their offensive spark plug, is uncertain because of an ankle injury that has kept him sidelined since Game

What they will bring, the players swear, is the right attitude.

No way will they fall into the trap of premature satisfaction that hurt past Super Bowl teams



Philadelphia Eagles coach Andy Reid was a member of the Green Bay Packers' staff when they ended a long Super Bowl drought after the 1996 season — against the New England Patriots.

such as the 1998 Falcons, 1994 Chargers and 1985 Patriots. Those clubs were happy to be there, and they got routed by superior opponents.

New England might be the superior team this time - it's favored by seven points — but the Eagles promise they will give it their all. No awe at the surround ings and no worshipping at the Patriots' shrine

"The ultimate goal is obviously the Super Bowl," McNabb said.

"Then we can come back and celebrate in a parade on Broad

"We're excited about this win and the city having that confident feeling back. It's a great feeling to have the opportunity to move to the Super Bowl. When it comes

down to it, hey, it's one more game. Let's go win it." The only other team with such

a long gap between Super Bowl appearances was Green Bay. The ckers won the first two Super Bowls, then didn't return until January 1997, when they beat the Patriots

Eagles coach Andy Reid was an assistant to Mike Holmgren with those Packers. He still has his notes from that postseason, but he hadn't looked at them again until Monday.

"It's a little different sitting there as head coach, but it still is a great feeling," said Reid, hired by the Eagles in 1999.

"Part of you is excited, another part of you understands you're not through. There's another game against a great football team and you want to get yourself right in preparation for that team

The Eagles lost 27-10 to the Raiders in their only Super Bowl trip. The Raiders broke a 19-year Super Bowl drought two s back, but they were routed by Tampa Bay in the big game.

McNabb was there. He's been to the last five Super Bowls, and he hasn't exactly enjoyed them.

"It's frustrating, because every conversation is: 'I expected you guys to be here,' " McNabb said. Well I did, too.

"Now we can go down there and have all our people smiling and you're happy you're there But playing the game is some-thing different. It's keeping that business mind-set of going out and winning the game.

# he'll play

BY DAN GELSTON The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA - Terrell Owens says his recovery is way ahead of schedule, surprising even his doctor.

Whether the All-Pro wide receiver will be healthy enough to play for the Philadelphia Eagles

in the Super Rowl mains a mys-

'What lot of people don't realize is that I've been doing a lot of rehab on my own, a lot of healing on my own, but spiritual God is



healing me and I'm way ahead of where a lot of people expect me to be, even the doctor," Owens said Monday. "He's even shocked at what he's seen. Spiritually I've been healed and I believe that I'll be out there on that field Sunday, regardless of what anyone says

Owens was among several Eagles, including quarterback Donovan McNabb and running back Brian Westbrook, who sat courtside for Monday's NBA game between the Philadelphia 76ers and Miami Heat. Owens, sidelined with an ankle injury since Dec. 19, was all smiles while talking about a possible return for the Feb. 6 Super Bowl against the New England Patriots. Eagles coach Andy Reid said

earlier in the day that Owens has made great progress, and will try to run this week. 'I've been doing all my rehab

in the pool," Owens said.

He was back on the sideline Sunday for the NFC title game only this time he served as head cheerleader, flapping his arms, waving a towel and encouraging the crowd to make more noise The Eagles advanced to the Super Bowl with a 27-10 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

Owens jogged onto the field and pumped up the crowd during pregame introductions, and iumped around on the bench during the game.

"I enjoyed it," Owens said. "If I could have been out there. I would have been out there. I just showed my support where I can.' But making cuts and taking hits are another story.

Owens, who led the Eagles with 77 catches for 1,200 yards and 14 TDs, tore two ankle ligaments and broke his right leg in a game against Dallas. A surgeon inserted two screws in Owens' ankle and a plate on the outside of the ankle three days after he was ininred

Owens was told after surgery that he had only an outside chance of returning for the Super Bowl, which was seven weeks away at the time. But he has rehabbed vigorously and has told teammates he's going to play.

#### Peak: Brady's playoff career got of to fabled start PEAK, FROM BACK PAGE Bledsoe, who threw for New En-He can do it now

"He has happy feet," Harrison said of Roethlisberger after the

"He's a rookie. Sometimes he throws the ball up for grabs. We got three and we could have had a few more. That's just being a rook-

Keep in mind that Brady was practically a rookie himself when his streak began.

Sunday's victory broke the record set a decade ago by Trov Aikman for playoff victories by a quarterback at the start of a ca-

But Aikman was 0-11 as a rook ie in 1989 and didn't get his first postseason win until after the 1991 season, winning a wild-card

game against the Bears in Chicago before losing at the Detroit Lions. The next year, the Cowboys won the first of their three Super Bowls in four seasons — a record the Patriots are now on course to tie

Brady's first playoff game was one of the most fabled in recent history - the "tuck rule" contest in the snow of Foxboro in January 2002. Brady's apparent fumble seemed to end the Patriots' drive for the tving field goal, but it was overruled by replay when he was said to be tucking the ball away and New England went on to beat Oakland 16-13 in overtime.

The next week, Brady started the AFC championship game in Pittsburgh, injured his ribs in the first half, and was replaced by gland's only offensive touchdown in a 24-17 victory. But Brady was back in time to win the MVP award in the Super Bowl and Bledsoe was traded to Buffalo the

Brady had been a sixth-round draft pick in 2000 after starting only one year at Michigan, where he beat out Drew Henson for the job. As a rookie, he started as a fourth stringer, threw three passes and completed one for six

Though he didn't go unbeaten, he was as good in 2001 as Roethlisberger was this year.

"It was my second year but my first year as a player," Brady re-called last week. "My rookie year there's no way I could have done what he did. I was awful. I couldn't do anything."

Perhaps the best demonstration came on the second-quarter touchdown pass to David Givens that gave the Patriots a 17-3 lead

On a second-and-5 from the Steelers' 9-vard-line, Givens was flanked out wide right and had started in motion to the left when Brady put up his hand to stop him because he noticed that only cornerback Willie Williams was out there. He flipped the ball out to Givens, Williams fell and it was an easy touchdown.

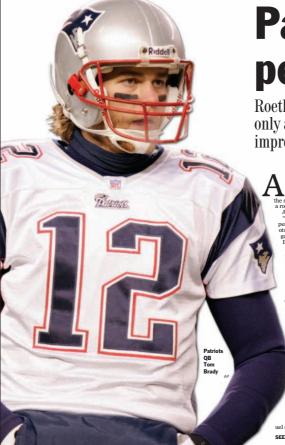
Would Roethlisherger have no ticed that coverage and made the quick decision? Maybe, but proba-

A rookie, no matter how successful is still a mokie Tom Brady is not.

# **SPORTS**

Eagles WR Owens believes iniured ankle will be healed in time for Super Bowl, Page 31





Pats' peak performer

Roethlisberger's struggles only accentuate Brady's impressive postseason résumé

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

s Tom Brady prepares for his third Super Bowl and Ben Roethlisberger heads home, Big Ben's playoff struggles only accen-tuate how remarkable Brady's 8-0 postseason record is. Brady took over in 2001 for the injured Drew Bledsoe in

the second regular-season game after throwing just three passes as a rookie. Four months later, he was the Super Bowl MVP. And he still hasn't lost a playoff game.

"Yeah, sometimes I'm a little surprised by how fast it's hap-

pened," he said after throwing two touchdown passes in the Patri-ots' 41-27 victory over Pittsburgh in Sunday's AFC championship game. "But I've had so many good people around me to help me. It's a team effort, not my effort."

OK, so Brady's right: It's almost a cliché now that the Patriots are the ultimate team, and that's why New England is a 7-point favorite over Philadelphia as it seeks to win its third Super Bowl in four seasons on Feb. 6 in Jacksonville.

But Brady — every season more like his boyhood idol Joe Montana — is a remarkable athlete himself. To find out just how remarkable, one need only look as far as Roethlisberger's playoff troubles

Big Ben had the best rookie season ever by a quarterback, with 14 straight wins, eight more than the next best. But he hit the wall in the playoffs — as rookies at every position often do. He threw two interceptions against the Jets. One was returned for a touchdown; the other came late in the game and

could have knocked the Steelers out of the playoffs had Jets kicker Doug Brien not missed from 43 yards. Against the Patriots, Roethlisberger's first pass was tipped by Asante Samuel and intercepted by Eugene Wil-

son to set up Adam Vinatieiri's field goal that got New England off to a 3-0 lead.

Just before the half, with Pittsburgh trailing 17-3, he got suckered by Rodney Harrison, an 11-year veteran, who intercepted the ball and returned it 87 yards for a score that made it 24-3 at the half.

That put Steelers in catchup mode, something a rookie quarterback just can't do against a team like New England. Montana maybe. Maybe Brady or Peyton Manning or Daunte Culpepper. But not Roethlisberger, whose success was in large part due a strong supporting cast — the very thing Brady credits for his own achievement

Wilson ended up getting a second interception later and Sam-uel dropped a couple he might have had.

SEE PEAK ON PAGE 31

Iverson scores 45 as 76ers defeat **East-leading Heat:** West leaders Spurs taken down by Trail Blazers

Page 27

No. 13 Oklahoma pulls off inside iob to top rival No. 9 **Oklahoma State:** Syracuse is first in Division I to 20 victories



Australian Open: **Defending champ** Federer makes auick work of Agassi; Serena, Sharapova to meet in semis

Page 26